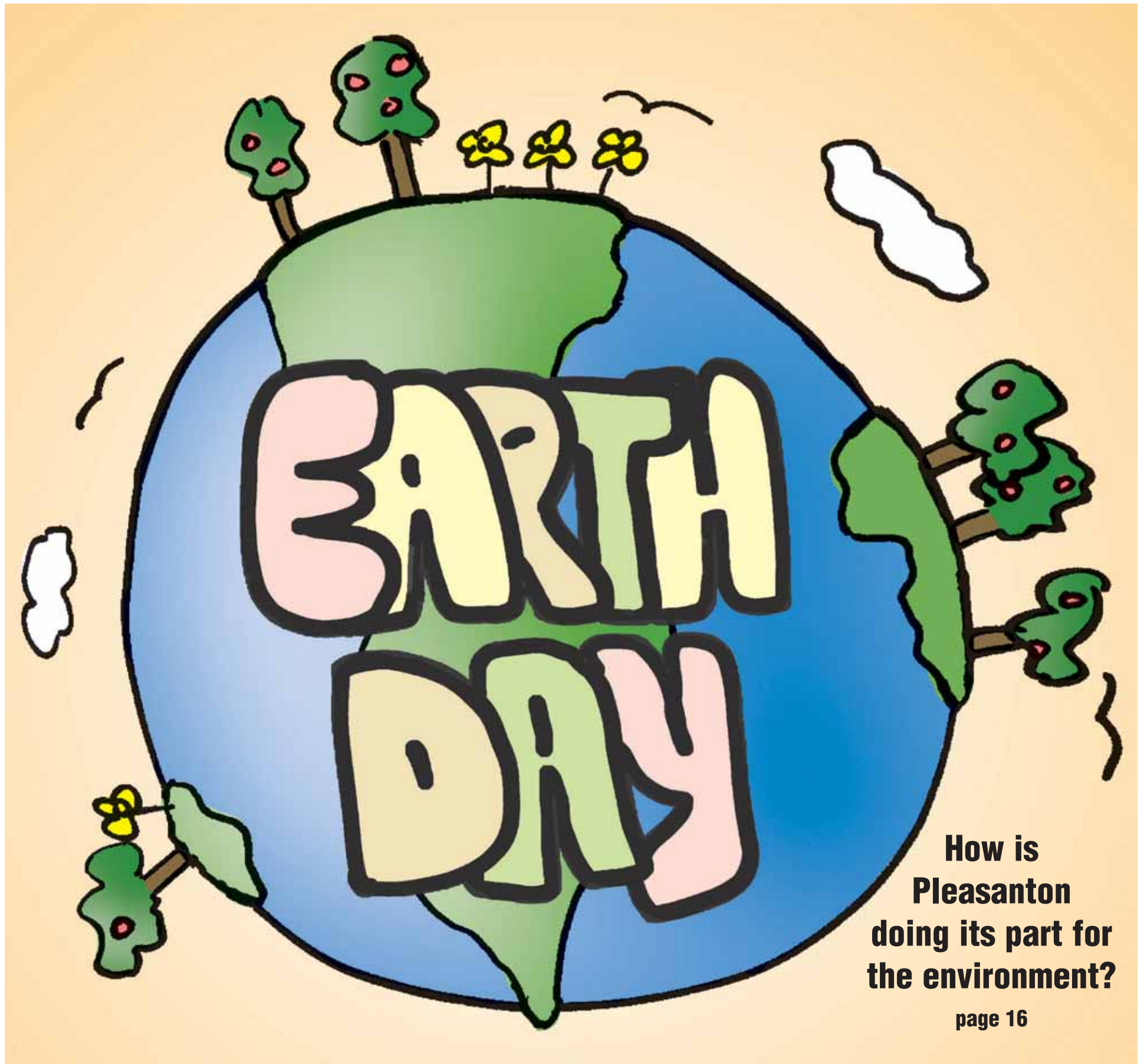


PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Vol. VIII, Number 13 • April 20, 2007

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It's all about Pleasanton



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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Pleasanton's Safeway Corp. a leader in charitable giving

Although we don't see much of Safeway's Chairman Steve Burd or his management team at local Chamber of Commerce or other community events, the Pleasanton-based store sure brings pride and recognition to our city. From campaigns to help the Muscular Dystrophy Association to benefits in partnership with local foundations that make stable housing available to the homeless, Burd and the company's employees and corporate foundation contribute millions of dollars each year to charitable organizations across America.

"We Care" days and "Miles bring smiles" events at local Safeway stores help reunite searching families with their missing children. Parking lot space is made available for collection stations for the Alameda County food bank and at other times for the National Prostate Cancer Coalition's mobile screening clinic. The clinic is part of Safeway's annual CURE prostate cancer fundraising drive held annually at all of the company's North America stores.

Safeway is a leader in hiring the disabled, including here in Pleasanton where workers with disabilities often help shoppers cart their groceries to their cars, holding regular jobs that help them become self-sufficient. Safeway works with Stepping Stones, now in its 30th year of helping the mentally retarded and those with cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism and other organic brain disorders. Store managers find workers supplied by Stepping Stones to be dedicated, reliable and loyal Safeway employees, whose time and attendance records are often far superior compared to those of employees who are not disabled.

Now Safeway has launched a month long program to raise

funds for Easter Seals' community-based programs that help those with autism, developmental disabilities, physical disabilities and other special needs. Among these is Kaleidoscope, a Dublin-based organization just across I-580 from Safeway's Pleasanton headquarters that serves the severely disabled in the Tri-Valley. Easter Seals is one of the leading providers of these special services in our area. It expects the current Safeway campaign could raise as much as \$5 million for its charitable work.

Since 1985, Safeway and the Safeway Foundation, the company's philanthropic arm, have helped raise nearly \$78 million for Easter Seals. Other corporations also support Easter Seals, but Safeway is by the far the most generous whose management team and employees show a clear passion for the cause of helping people with disabilities. And, it's not just at Safeway Pleasanton headquarters or local stores. Employees at Safeway-owned stores across the country raised over \$2.5 million in 2006 in support of Easter Seals community-based services. These include Vons, Tom Thumb, Dominick's, Randall's, Genuardi's, Carrs and Pavilions, all part of the Safeway group.

Safeway also demonstrates support for local and national charities by sponsoring golf tournaments, holiday bakes sales and coupon sales. As Safeway expands across the country, more and more children and adults with disabilities will be benefiting from the generosity and dedication to giving back and supporting the communities in which Safeway stores do business, all part of the spirit of community support driven by the management team and executive staff of Safeway Corporation, right here in Pleasanton. We're proud it's Safeway's home town as well as ours. ■

About the Cover

With global warming and climate change in the news daily, this year's Earth Day takes on a special meaning. An array of activities is going on in Pleasanton related to environmentally-friendly practices as well as Earth Day activities planned this weekend. Cover by Ben Ho.

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Streetwise

Q: Do you think the city should allow the operation of medical marijuana dispensaries?

Asked Downtown



Judy Asplund

Author

Absolutely. I don't need it for myself personally, but I know others who have MS or other diseases who, without the help of medical marijuana, suffer greatly mentally, spiritually and physically. It is incredibly helpful and I would encourage a dispensary in town.

Rob Wensing

Consultant

Honestly, I am not quite sure. It is a complex issue. I'm not against the use of medical marijuana. I understand it is very helpful. I would need to feel that a facility were properly regulated and monitored by the city. If all the bases were covered I wouldn't have a problem with it.



Eleanor Brown

Homemaker

I think if we don't have a dispensary now we should not in the future. These facilities need to be together in a certain area where they can be properly monitored. Our city doesn't need anything with the potential for misuse coming to town.



Sharon Hollis

Self-Employed

If the question were put up for a vote right now I would say no. The whole system of marijuana dispensaries is not regulated properly and can attract people who are not seeking the drug for the right reasons. Perhaps in the future when "the bugs" have been worked out it might be more acceptable for Pleasanton.



John Huston

Contractor

Everything that I have read regarding medical marijuana dispensaries has lead me to believe that it just brings problems to the areas in which they are located. Folks show up from out of town to buy, police activity increases and there is inconsistent regulation. I'd prefer to not see it in our town.



MAKE EVERY DAY EARTH DAY



Since 1970, one day each year has been devoted to celebrating the Earth's beauty and natural resources. That first Earth Day was a catalyst for the Clean Water Act and other measures that have greatly improved our environment.

So do your part to keep up the great tradition! Respect the environment and be vigilant about protecting it. Try to use less water, waste less water, and need less water.

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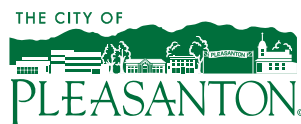


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Have a Streetwise question? E-mail: editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

Compiled by Cybele Ryan

Newsfront

News Digest

DNA: Cracking the Ancestor Code

Scientists delve into the past as California State University East Bay's C.E. Smith Museum of Anthropology presents a 60,000-year journey through history, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday through June 15 in Meiklejohn Hall, 4047. Displays include materials from tools to jewelry, food to decorative arts and more. Admission is free. Visit <http://class.csueastbay.edu/anthropologymuseum>.

Students take top honors at creativity competition

Students from Pleasanton Middle, Foothill High and Amador Valley High schools recently brought home top honors at the Destination ImagiNation (DI) State Finals in Elk Grove. They will travel to Tennessee to represent California at the world's largest creative problem-solving competition in May. Challenges in the state competition included building a playing-card structure capable of holding 600 pounds before breaking. Visit www.idodi.org for more information.

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.

Tri-Valley Youth Food Drive

Donate non-perishable items to the fifth annual Tri-Valley Youth Food Drive, run by the Youth Service Council. The drive begins at 10 a.m. April 21, rain or shine. The Pleasanton location is at the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, 6100 Paseo Santa Cruz. Call 998-6513 or email davidbahr@sbcglobal.net for details and other Tri-Valley locations.

Corrections

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

City Council OKs bypass road recommendation

Happy Valley residents walk away happy; Sycamore Heights, Bridle Creek residents upset

by Janet Pelletier

A recommendation to realign a bypass road for the public to reach Callippe Preserve Golf Course in southeastern Pleasanton was given the OK in a 5-0 vote by the City Council Tuesday night.

The decision didn't come easy, however.

"This is probably one of the two most difficult decisions we will have to make on this council," said Councilman Matt Sullivan, the other being whether to keep the

Stoneridge Drive extension in the General Plan, which will be debated at a City Council workshop next Tuesday.

"I believe it has been a promise of the city to build the bypass road," he said.

"This is extremely difficult. You're obviously emotionally attached to this issue," Mayor Jennifer Hosterman told the audience.

"It's not perfect, but it gives us the opportunity to move forward," she said. "We have a lot of work

left to do. This is just the beginning."

Plans for a bypass road to keep traffic off Alisal Street in Happy Valley are included in the 1998 Happy Valley Specific Plan. The latest recommendation was made by the Happy Valley Blue Ribbon Committee, formed last June. The plans include closing Westbridge Drive, a temporary street that leads from the golf course to the L-shaped junction of Alisal and Happy Valley Road. Cars now using that road would be shifted to the new road

that would connect from Sycamore Creek Way.

While council members said they were grappling with the decision, they said the approval of the recommendation only means that the city will start exploring the bypass road and its feasibility as well as conducting an environmental impact report. Nothing is set in stone and the public will have plenty of opportunities to be involved in the process, they said.

(continued on page 12)



Students at the World School of Massage in Pleasanton practice Swedish vibrational deep tissue massage techniques on a fellow student.

Janet Pelletier

School working to relax the city's massage ordinance

World School of Massage seeks looser restrictions on students

On a recent Monday morning, World School of Massage instructor Heatherly Stanky demonstrated the techniques of Swedish vibrational deep tissue massage to a dozen students, using one as a model. It's the last class before they go on to become massage therapists.

But there is one important piece of their education they're currently missing—practicing on total strangers as they would in a real world scenario.

That's why the school, located

at 699 Peters Ave. downtown, is working with the city to relax its massage ordinance to change that.

"The ordinance was written so tightly that it didn't allow for our students here to practice massage in a student clinic on the public and that's a vital part of any massage school, both for income and for the students," said Nick Tangney, manager of World School.

To make up for that, students do "homeplay assignments," working on fellow students, family and

(continued on page 10)

Steve Brozosky applies for school board

Two return from last process to make four total applicants

by Emily Atwood

Former city councilmember and mayoral candidate Steve Brozosky, who lost by only 188 votes in November, joined in the appointment process to become a school board trustee along with returning applicants Marti Scalise and Robert Gehl and past board member Clark Gunson. The appointee would fill the seat left by late board president Juanita Haugen, whose term expires November 2008.



Steve Brozosky

Since the election and his four years on the council, Brozosky has been busy with his software business, working with the Pleasanton Rotary Club and helping with Amador Valley High School's Interact club and track team. His youngest daughter is a freshman there and his older daughter graduated in 2005.

In seeking the school board seat, Brozosky said he was responding to feedback from people who approached him since the board's decision to appoint its new member. He said the people understood avoiding the cost of a special election, but felt appointing is harmful to the democratic process. Brozosky said he would not run in the election, which would level the

(continued on page 12)



A wet stride

Despite incessant rain and chilly temperatures during the race, Pleasanton runners completed the Boston Marathon Monday and are now back home.

The runners, Kevin McEntee, Laurey Davis, Kevin McCarthy and Pat McCarthy were featured in last Friday's paper. Shown here is McEntee running past the halfway point in Wellesley, Mass. Joining them was Roger Holton, who recently moved to Atlanta from Pleasanton.

McEntee's wife Marie, who has run the marathon twice, cheered the runners on from the sidelines, reports that the wet weather was wild and challenging at times with a constant headwind going towards the runners.

Marie McEntee

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Courtesy Lakshmi Bangalore

How do you spell C-H-A-M-P?

Hart Middle School sixth-grader Neethi Bangalore won the Alameda County Spelling Bee last month, spelling "habituated" correctly to give her the first place prize. The competition was the first county-sponsored spelling bee and featured fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders. The 12-year-old will now move onto the California State Elementary Spelling Championship May 19 at Sonoma State University.

Chamber Players perform April 29

Pleasanton group debuts piece by local composer

by Rebecca Guyon

The Pleasanton Chamber Players will perform its spring concert "Memories of Music" 3 p.m. April 29 featuring a new piece written specifically for the chamber by local composer Helena Michelson.

The concert will include pieces by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Alfred Holy, Marcel Tournier, Giancarlo Menotti and Osvaldo Golijov, but the highlight will be Michelson's piece entitled "...softly through the night...memories of music..."

Michelson originally connected with the Chamber Players through Dominique Piana, artistic director for the group. In addition to directing, Piana also plays harp, and Michelson was looking for a harpist to work with on a different piece a couple years ago. The two met, and the rest is history.

"I felt like I could really compose something that is in the spirit of the group and the things they're doing," Michelson said.

Piana's work with the harp also directly affected this piece.

"Dominique specializes in the 19th century repertoire for the harp and she has a beautiful album, among others, called 'Beyond Dreams: The Spirit of Romanticism, Lyric Pieces from the 19th Century.' For me, this was the initial point, just listening to those lush, beautiful pieces, the harp's resonance...capturing the spirit of this sound world as it stayed in my memory," Michelson said.

The piece is scored for flute, percussion, harp and cello, a unique combination, Michelson said.

"I was particularly excited by the interaction between harp, drums and cymbals," she added.

Michelson is originally from Latvia, but currently resides in Fremont. She has a doctorate in

(continued on page 9)



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Seventh-grader off to Germany this summer

Hart Middle School one of six U.S. schools to receive grand prize trip

by Emily Atwood

Hart Middle School was one of 640 schools in the United States and Canada to apply for the Goeth-Institut Award of Excellence contest, "For Better or Wurst—What's on the Menu in Germany."

As one of six schools to be awarded the grand prize, one student is given the opportunity to study in Germany over the summer, with course costs, accommodation and meals and up to \$900 in airfare paid.

In order to pick the student, Manja Benadjaoud, a German and French language teacher at Hart and Amador Valley High School, held an essay contest in which students were asked to write what they would do in Germany and how they would share their trip.

Of the 14 applicants and among three to get an interview, the lucky winner was seventh-grader Marcus



Hart Middle School seventh-grader Marcus Smith will travel to Germany over the summer as the grand prize winner of the Goeth-Institut Award of Excellence contest.

Smith. He said he was excited to study with kids who also want to learn the German language. And as for sharing his experience, he plans to participate in the school's international fair.

His interest in learning German came from family on his mother's

side. It's where his grandparents were born and some family is still there. Now with a year of language instruction under his belt, he is able to join in the occasional German conversations with his family.

For three weeks this summer Smith will study in Marquartstein, a city in southeastern Germany between Munich and Salzburg. In addition to studying the language and culture, the boarding school he is attending will also organize games, class barbecues, disco nights and movies. His mother and 16-year-old brother will also meet up with him for part of the trip.

Benadjaoud said the essays were well researched and articulated and that seventh-grader Naveed Ziari and sixth-grader Omar Sajjad were the first and second runners-up.

The organization seeks to promote a wider knowledge of the German language and to foster cultural cooperation between Germany and other countries.

To learn more about the Goethe-Institut visit www.goethe.de/germany. ■

\$230,000 raised from Ruby Hill Giving Thanks Charity Ball

Funds split between Hope Hospice, Open Heart Kitchen and ValleyCare Medical Center

A total of \$230,000 was raised from the Ruby Hill Giving Thanks Charity Ball, held March 3 at the Palm Event Center.

The announcement was made recently at a check presentation at Wells Fargo Bank on Hopyard Road for the three benefiting charities: Hope Hospice, Open Heart Kitchen and ValleyCare Medical Center.

Open Heart Kitchen received \$30,000 to help serve meals to less fortunate in the community; \$100,000 to ValleyCare for the refurbishment of the emergency room there and \$100,000 to Hope Hospice, which provides end-of-life care and grief support.

"It not only pays off in dollars, it pays off in changing lives," said Hope Hospice Executive Director Helen Meier, in thanking the Ruby Hill Giving Thanks Charity Committee.

Ken Mercer, vice president of the ValleyCare Foundation, and Carol Beddome, executive director of Open Heart Kitchen, were also on hand to receive the donations.

In its 10th year, the charity ball got started when Donna Garrison, a local Realtor, and a group of 12 others joined with the idea to give back to the community.



Members of the Ruby Hill Giving Thanks Charity Committee are joined by representatives of beneficiaries Hope Hospice, Open Heart Kitchen and ValleyCare, and officials from Wells Fargo, one of the top sponsors of the charity ball.

The first ball raised \$35,000 and has grown exponentially since. This year's theme was "Springtime in Paris," and 200 guests and sponsors attended, enjoying an evening filled with gourmet food and wine, French and vintage Frank Sinatra music and décor, silent and live auctions and prize drawings for jewelry and vacation packages.

The top sponsors of this year's event were Wells Fargo Bank,

Align Technology, BMC Software, Madden Family Charities and MCRD Foundation.

With this year's funds added into the mix, the nonprofit organization has now donated more than \$2.5 million to Tri-Valley organizations over the past decade.

The Ruby Hill Giving Thanks Charity Committee comprises 20 chair heads and numerous volunteers.

—Janet Pelletier

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THE BIG MOVE

The final step in selling a home is often considered the worst part - the packing and moving of all your possessions. The secret to a smooth move lies in advance planning. Arrange for the movers well ahead of time, and start by getting estimates from several moving companies. Ask what their quotes include, what kind of services (and care) they provide, and which aspects of the move they will not handle, such as removing light fixtures or other fixed items.

Insure your possessions adequately during the move. Most moving firms can arrange insurance for you. You may be able to extend your homeowner's coverage to insure the contents of your home during the move. Be sure to get the additional cost and conditions of this agreement in writing.

If you prefer to do some packing yourself, it is better to confine your packing to the unbreakable items. Most companies recommend that you let them handle all the packing for an extra charge, and they don't cover items that they have not packed for damage or breakage.

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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.

NEW! 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).

NEW! Week 4 - **Computer IQ Booster** - will address three capabilities:

- Introduction to computer use and MS Word (G 2-3);
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Creative Writing	7/16-7/20	7/30-8/3
Presentation Skills	7/23-7/27	8/6-8/10
Computer Booster	7/30-8/3	8/13-8/17

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Residents sound off on environmental concerns for Staples Ranch project

Planning Commission votes to begin holding weekly meetings to free up backlog of projects

by Janet Pelletier

Residents voiced their environment-related concerns for a project to include a senior care community, auto mall and community park, citing traffic, noise and visual impacts.

Their concerns and those made by members of the Planning Commission will be addressed in an environmental report that will be produced for the project, called Staples Ranch. The project encompasses 124 acres of undeveloped land on the northeastern edge of the city. The environmental report will examine the development's impact in the following areas: land use and zoning; aesthetics; population and housing; traffic, circulation and transportation; air quality; noise; hazards or risks of upset; biological resources and hydrology and water quality.

The public has until April 30 to make comments on the initial study. It is available on the city's Web site, www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us. Comments can be mailed to the city, 200 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton, CA 94566 or emailed to city planner Robin Giffin, rgiffin@ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

After the feedback is collected, a draft report will be prepared and released to the public for further comment. Next, staff will respond

to people's comments and include their responses in a final report. The project is expected to come before the Planning Commission for approval sometime this summer.

Sue Solis, who lives adjacent to the Staples Ranch site, told the commission at the April 11 meeting that she was concerned about the landscaping and animals that live in the dense bushes and trees between her property and the new development. She also expressed her distaste for the proposed 50-foot-tall pylon sign to be placed off Interstate 580 for the new auto mall.

"It sounds like something Dublin would have," she said. "It's so huge."

Another visual impact mentioned at the auto mall, which would be built by Hendrick Automotive Group and would feature six dealerships on 37 acres, was the lighting.

Bjorn Jensen, who lives on Vermont Street, said he didn't want excess lighting from the auto mall parking lots shining on his neighborhood.

Karen Sweet of the Alameda County Conservation District, said she was worried about the potential loss of agricultural land and whether the project would incorporate a visual transition from Pleasanton on the west to Livermore on the east.

Some residents were concerned about the flow of cars and trucks through the region.

"Are construction vehicles going to be going through that neighborhood while they're building?" asked Jeff Birschstein.

John Carroll said he would like the environmental report to study the impacts of traffic to the region, more specifically to Mohr Elementary School.

"If Stoneridge (Drive) were extended to Livermore, it would have a tremendous impact," he said.

Edward Reidy of Palmer Drive echoed Carroll's comments, adding that he's opposed to extending Stoneridge.

As part of the Staples Ranch development, Stoneridge Drive would be extended to connect within the project. It would not be extended beyond to connect with El Charro Road in Livermore, which has been in the city's General Plan as a future road extension.

The environmental report will study both scenarios: if Stoneridge were extended just to connect within the project and if it were extended farther to connect to Livermore. The Livermore Amador Valley Transportation Authority has also

(continued on page 9)

Fundraiser for Firehouse Arts Center tonight

Worthington Gallery hosts interior design seminar

The Bay Area Critic and Worthington Gallery West are hosting a seminar titled "Everything You Wanted to Know About Buying, Hanging and Lighting Art!" from 7 to 8:30 p.m. today at Worthington Gallery West, 739 Main St. Half

the proceeds of the event will benefit the future Firehouse Arts Center, which is a restoration of the historic fire station on Railroad Avenue.

Participants will learn how to select the right art for their personal tastes, where to hang it and how to light it. Those with a specific work they're working with can bring a photo of it to the event and receive personalized advice. There

will also be a wine tasting, gourmet appetizers and interior redesign tips featuring Oasis Grille and Bodegas.

Tickets are \$20 at the door. Purchases in cash or check may be made in person at Worthington Gallery West. Online purchases may be made at www.bayareacritic.com/artappreciationevent.html.

—Rebecca Guyon



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Staples Ranch

(continued from page 8)

expressed interest in operating a bus route to Staples Ranch.

When it was the Planning Commissioners' turns, they shared many of the residents' concerns and also added some of their own suggestions.

Commissioner Phil Blank wanted the noise and traffic patterns of airplanes coming and going from Livermore Airport just to the east to be studied, adding that 50 percent of noise complaints about the airport come from Pleasanton residents. The senior care community would be located just outside of the Airport Protection Zone.

The impact of construction traffic such as dust, contaminants and hazardous materials, was also on his list.

Commissioner Jennifer Pearce asked that staff study how pollution from being located so close to the freeway would affect those living in the senior living community.

Commissioner Kathy Narum said she wanted to see a visual representation of the four-story buildings within the senior care community.

Chairwoman Anne Fox recommended staff look at airport issues such as a possible expansion, airplane turning paths, as well as the geology of the infill that will be placed on the property in reference to earthquake standards.

In other business, the Planning Commission opted to begin holding meetings weekly instead of bi-monthly to review more planning projects. Giffin said there are currently 10 development projects in the queue to go before the commission. The move, which will be temporary, was made after developer Michael O'Callaghan asked that his proposal to construct a new building downtown be heard soon.

He's looking to tear down a building at 725 Main St., where the Union Jack Pub used to be located before it was shut down. He was told that a number of high-level projects would be consuming the commission for the next couple months. He said he was under pressure from a client who wants to get started on the project. ■

Performance

(continued from page 6)

musical composition from UC Davis and did her undergraduate work at UC Berkeley. For the past 20 years, she has composed music and other ensembles such as the Emyrean Ensemble of UC Davis, the Berkeley Symphony and the Riverside Symphony based in New York City.

Sunday's chamber performance will be at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door. Children are free. Tickets can be purchased at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Contact Piana at dominquepiana@comcast.net or 600-1331 for more information. ■

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Pleasanton Real Estate News



by
Gerarda
Stocking

IMPROVING YOUR CREDIT SCORE

In a perfectly sensible world, the person who has done no borrowing whatsoever should be the one with the perfect credit score. In the real world, however, that is not so.

We come quite often to the question of whether it helps your credit score to pay off and eliminate most or all of your credit cards. There is no simple answer. The fact is, you will want to walk a fine line between looking like you may have too large of an outstanding balance and looking like you don't use credit at all.

Generally, the credit score reflects a moderate use of a few credit cards very favorably, running on the assumption that you know how to handle credit wisely (and you'll be a good customer for a loan, because you do borrow and you do make timely payments). Therefore, if you will soon apply for a home loan and want your credit score to be as high as possible, it is often best simply to pay down existing card balances to moderate levels if you can, but not to pay them off. (You also look good if you have a lengthy history with your credit cards.)

If you won't be applying for a loan for a few years and you want to start improving your credit score now, you may want to eliminate some credit cards. Above all, you'll want to establish and maintain a record of making timely payments and to keep your balances from getting much over 50% of what is available to you. For assistance call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

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Massage

(continued from page 5)

friends.

“But there’s nothing quite like the first massage you give on a stranger or member of the public,” he said.

The effort began 2 1/2 years ago when the holistic therapy and massage school opened in Pleasanton. The company has a flagship school in San Francisco where students are allowed to conduct student clinics.

The ordinance was last modified in 1997, according to Assistant City Attorney Renee Perko.

“The city didn’t have any massage clinics in town and when (the school) came in...student massage clinics are part of their education, so we wanted to be able to accommodate that,” Perko said. “Right now, in order to provide massage in Pleasanton you have to have a permit. Part of the permit process is going through a background check, you have to have significant education requirements, association requirements, certification requirements, and a student probably won’t have those.”

New language stipulates that students enrolled in a massage school complete 100 hours of course and massage work before giving clinics. A state certified instructor also must supervise.

“We see this being a huge benefit to the community,” he said. “I have a call in to Friends of Pleasanton Seniors looking to support Pleasanton seniors to receive either free or heavily discounted massages.”

“With the rates around the Pleasanton area being \$75-115 an



Janet Pelletier

Heatherly Stanky, an instructor at the World School, demonstrates techniques to her class. Revisions to the city’s massage ordinance will allow students to hold clinics to further their education.

hour, receiving a \$40 massage, granted it’s from a student, is a way that makes massage accessible to people who maybe don’t have the resources to pay the higher amounts or who are turned off by that price tag, so it can be kind of a gateway into massage,” he added.

Other revisions regulate special events for massage.

“If a company wants to host a health seminar and they want to bring in their own massage therapists from elsewhere, that would be permissible under the proposed ordinance (changes),” Perko said.

It would not, however, be available to students, just certified massage therapists.

Tangney said it has been a struggle working to change the ordinance.

“It’s my understanding that the reason the city has such an air-tight massage ordinance was that they actually had some problems in the

early 90s with some unreputable massage businesses,” he said.

But Perko said that’s not the case and that the massage ordinance has nothing to do with illicit activities such as prostitution.

“Protecting people or dealing with unlawful activities—we’ll deal with that through the ordinance certainly, because there’s a background check requirement, but the main focus of the ordinance is to promote legitimate professionals and the massage community,” she said. “It’s a little bit different than having an ordinance to stamp out prostitution. We have penal codes for that. The massage professionals in the city—they’re highly thought of and we want to promote their business.”

The revisions will go before the City Council in the near future, Perko said, but she declined to give a specific timeframe.

—Janet Pelletier

Groundbreaking Sunday for Pleasanton Presbyterian Church

First phase of construction for new Ironwood facility to take nine months

The congregation of Pleasanton Presbyterian Church will celebrate the groundbreaking of its new facility on Sunday.

The ceremony will begin at 10:45 a.m. at the new site at the corner of Valley Avenue, Busch Road and Cornerstone Drive in the new Ironwood residential development.

A 9:30 a.m. worship service will be held at the church’s current location at 4300 Mirador Drive to start the morning and when the service ends at 10:15 a.m., church members will travel to the Ironwood site

for the groundbreaking and conclusion of the worship service.

Speakers at the groundbreaking ceremony will include Chairman Kile Morgan of Ponderosa Homes, which is building the Ironwood development, congregational President Bill Potter and Pastor Mike Barris.

The 6-acre parcel will house a six-classroom wing, a coffeehouse with two meeting rooms and a 6,000-square-foot temporary Sprung structure that will house worship and youth activities. Also part of the first phase of the proj-

ect is a worship center/community performance venue totaling more than 10,000 square feet that will be completed as the church raises enough money.

Construction is estimated to take about nine months. The Presbyterian church will continue to hold services at its Mirador facility on Sundays through December. For more information about the groundbreaking, contact church elder Tim Hunt at 786-8364 or Pastor Barris at 846-4436.

—Janet Pelletier

The Parkview grand opening next Thursday

Public can tour new senior facility

The Parkview, the new senior assisted living facility located at 100 Valley Ave. (previously Junipero Street) next to the Pleasanton Senior Center, will open its doors to the public from 4 to 7 p.m. April 26 to celebrate its grand opening. Guests will be able to tour the new senior community, as well as enjoy

music and refreshments, and can register to win a four-day cruise to Mexico.

The facility officially opened to residents Jan. 17, a project 10 years in the making. Plans for the facility began in 1996 when the city designated the 3.59-acre parcel of surplus land next to the senior center for the facility’s development. The \$25-million project is a joint public-private

venture with the city of Pleasanton and nonprofit developer Bridge Housing. Eskaton, an organization that runs senior residences in Northern California, is managing the facility.

Those interested in attending the event or scheduling a personal tour can call Dolores Teubner, 416-3042 or visit the Eskaton Web site at www.eskaton.org.

—Rebecca Guyon

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Mayors take over board at TV30 community television

As directors, they hope to improve long-range funding, growth

by Jeb Bing

The mayors of the four cities that TV30 Community Television serves have taken over the board of the nonprofit public corporation, replacing the independent board members that each city's mayor and City Council had appointed.

Mayors Jennifer Hosterman of Pleasanton, Janet Lockhart of Dublin, H. Abram Wilson of San Ramon and Marshall Kamena of Livermore will hold their first meeting as the newly-constituted board of directors of TV30 next Thursday.

"TV30 has been struggling financially and it was decided to have the key policymakers from the four cities it serves—Pleasanton, San Ramon, Dublin and Livermore—become directly involved in governing the community television system to see what the cities need to do to help," said Pleasanton City

Manager Nelson Fialho.

"The mayors have the wherewithal to determine what funds are needed and to make sure they are available to the station," Fialho said. "After a year or so and the station is on a corrected course fiscally, the mayors will decide if the board should go back to representatives picked by them and their councils."

City managers will work with the mayors to develop an action plan for meeting the financial needs of the station, as well as helping out on personnel issues.

Fialho said the mayors strongly support station manager Glenn Davis, who was hired last year to strengthen and modernize the broadcast service. Since then, the station has won awards for both its programming and broadcast improvements.

Approximately 66 percent of the

station's \$634,000 operating budget is generated through franchise fees collected on Comcast cable television bills. Although these fees are a stable source of revenue so far, an increase in direct TV subscribers has the TV30 managers worried. For each rooftop antenna bringing in direct TV to a home, that's usually one less Comcast subscriber and one less 50-cent fee paid monthly to support the community television system.

Also, only Comcast is required to carry TV30 broadcasts, which include municipal government and City Council meetings on its Channel 29 and school board meetings and other education programs on Channel 28.

The TV30 board of directors meeting, which is open to the public, will start at 7 p.m. in the City Managers Conference Room at the Dublin City Hall. ■

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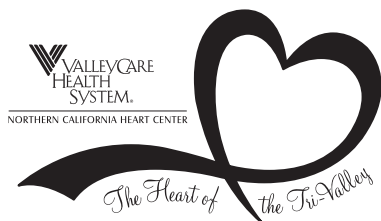
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Emily Atwood

Blankets for Kids

Women from Ridgeview Commons celebrated four years of Blankets for Kids, which has distributed nearly 10,000 blankets to abused, neglected and at-risk children through community service organizations and police departments all over the Bay Area. In addition to blankets, the women use the scraps for handmade dolls, scarves and headbands also included in the distribution.

The all-volunteer organization was founded in Pleasanton in 2003 by R. Jo Molz and her daughter Marcy Molz, after Jo discovered nearly that nearly 300,000 abused and neglected children in the United States. They wanted to do something that would, even in some small way, alleviate the suffering of those children. For more information, contact Jo at 846-6155.

Sending comfort to troops abroad

Operation SAM seeks donations tomorrow for care packages

by Emily Atwood

While Pleasanton residents are fine tuning air conditioners in preparation for warmer weather, troops abroad are also seeking relief from sweltering heat. Those in Iraq and Afghanistan are nearing the hot and dry summer season and volunteers from Operation SAM (Supporting All Military) in Livermore are working to make it more bearable.

Tomorrow, the group will gather at the Livermore Wal-Mart, 2700 Las Positas Road, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for their annual spring donation drive.

Pleasanton resident Laura Rosenga, who helps with Operation SAM, said the items many troops find useful during hot weather are foot powder, antifungal creams and sunscreen.

Popular treats requested by the troops are individually packaged Slim Jims, beef jerky and flavorings for water, like Crystal Light or Propel.

Also needed are saline nasal spray, deodorant, razors, Q-tips, body wash, small (non-pump) hand sanitizer, white cotton tube socks, bug repellent wipes, aspirin, allergy medication, Tums, trail mix, lip balm, AA batteries, travel-size games and puzzle books.

The donation drive is intended to restock supplies, as they ship 150 boxes every two weeks year-round.

"We always hope that we can get at least enough to do 300 boxes," Rosenga said. "We appreciate anything. If we get an overabundance of socks, we'll spread those out and use them."

In addition to handy items, she said the troops love getting letters. Those are always included in the packages, so there will be cards and notepaper available at the donation site.

"They love to hear from somebody at home," she said. "Personally, I think it's important that the soldiers know that we're here for them."

While Rosenga had a relative serving in the military, she said most of the Operation SAM volunteers didn't.

"They felt an overwhelming need to support them and make sure they know people at home haven't forgotten about them."

For those unable to make it to the donation drive Saturday, the group has other drop-off locations, including the Museum on Main, 603 Main St. For a complete list of care package items and drop-off locations, visit the group's Web site at www.operationssam.org.

Amador students organize Darfur genocide awareness event

Adeyemi Coker to speak on how the Tri-Valley can help

While there has been some attention given to what is being called a "modern-day holocaust" in Darfur, Sudan, Shelby Margolin says there needs to be more and that's where the Tri-Valley community comes in.

"The Tri-Valley has the opportunity and resources to make a significant impact on the situation in Darfur," she said in a letter addressed to the Pleasanton Weekly. "First, we must educate ourselves on the issue."

The Amador Valley High School sophomore and 40 other students were moved to action upon hearing media reports about hundreds of

thousands of people being killed and millions displaced in the Sudan region.

"The vulnerable and dying country of Sudan is receiving little attention from the media or world leaders," Margolin said. "The black Africans feel that the government has treated them unfairly for many years...and decided to rebel. The government responded by sending their regular armed forces...to cleanse the black Africans, specifically the Fur Masalit and the Zaghawa, from the area."

The students decided to put together an event called "Darfur—A

Modern Day Holocaust: Genocide you can stop." Margolin contacted Adeyemi Coker, a member of the African Diaspora Foundation, to speak about helping Africa find peace and justice through education.

Coker is scheduled to speak from 7 to 9 p.m. April 26 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Doors open at 6:30 and while this is a free event, the group requests that people RSVP to savedarfurnow07@yahoo.com. For more information contact Margolin at shelby-margolin@yahoo.com or visit www.savedarfur.org.

—Emily Atwood

Council

(continued from page 5)

But the emotionally charged issue starkly divided two neighborhoods that border the golf course and will be affected by the decision.

Residents of Happy Valley said approving the recommendation was a no-brainer.

"The Happy Valley loop was never intended to handle that traffic," said resident Kellen Aura. "Sycamore (Creek Way) was. It has sidewalks on both sides. It's lit."

But residents of the newer communities of Bridle Creek and Sycamore Heights, where the bypass would go, said they felt cheated by the developer they bought their homes from and asked the city to sympathize with their concerns of safety, noise and traffic.

"We are the ones who will take the brunt of this," said Sycamore Creek Way resident Phyllis Lee. "None of us in Bridle Creek knew that this would be the road. How

was I, an out-of-town buyer, supposed to know?"

Sherri Howard, who has twin 2-year-old girls, said the newer residential community has 50 children who live there.

"The traffic circles that are there now do little to slow people down," she said. "I'm concerned about impaired drivers—golfers who have drinks after their game."

Debi Frost shared the language of a Bridle Creek promotional flyer, saying it describes the neighborhood as tranquil and picturesque.

"Funny, I never thought I would see 1,800 cars going by my kitchen window," she said. "We will not be muzzled and we are considering our options."

Happy Valley residents, while slightly outnumbered in speakers, shot back.

"Not taking the time to read what they're signing is their own fault," Aura said. "Sycamore Creek Way has been a route for cyclists and hikers for many years."

Patrick Costanzo, executive vice president of Greenbriar Homes,

which developed Sycamore Heights and Bridle Creek, said his company has acted appropriately, despite some homeowners' claims.

"We have provided to the city all the legal documents. We believe legally we disclosed all the right things," he said. "Unfortunately I don't think you'll get consensus on this because you have two different neighborhoods."

Some also attacked the formation of the Blue Ribbon committee. They said the committee was "stacked with special interest," comprised of mostly Happy Valley residents and the developer. Only one member represented Sycamore Heights and Bridle Creek, they said.

City staff, responding to Councilwoman Cindy McGovern's questioning of the committee's formation, said the public was noticed that the committee would be formed as well as before each meeting was held. McGovern said she felt it was normal to have a developer be a representative on a committee.

It's their land, they should have a say-so, she said. ■

School board

(continued from page 5)

campaign field and encourage more people to run.

"Running against the incumbent is always more difficult, I know," he said with a laugh. "We have a lot of educated people in this community that are very involved with the schools. I imagine that we wouldn't have trouble finding people [to run for school board in 2008]."

He didn't, however, rule out the possibility of running for mayor or city council, saying he hadn't thought that far ahead.

Also concerned with an advantage being given to an incumbent seeking election is Gunson, who previously served as a board member from 1988 to 1999. Although his application didn't say he wouldn't

run in the election, he wrote that his appointment will allow the community to "elect a new school board member without prejudice."

A Pleasanton resident of over 35 years, Gunson has five children who were in district schools from 1976 to 2001. He said Pleasanton schools are strong, but face the challenges of supporting students with diverse needs, including counseling staffs and adult role models.

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

With two children in Pleasanton

schools, ages 8 and 11, Scalise works in sales and marketing part-time. She's lived in Pleasanton for 4 1/2 years and has been active at Donlon Elementary as PFC president for two years, PFC executive board member, auction co-chair and rededication co-chair, and is on the school site council. She is also a member of the Pleasanton Unified School District Excellence Committee.

Noticeably absent from the applications was the last appointment period's runner-up Jill Buck, who didn't immediately return calls to say why she hadn't applied.

The four applicants were to be screened by a community panel yesterday. Following the schedule, an appointment would be made after interviews by the school board April 24. The appointee would then be officially seated at the next regular board meeting on May 8. ■

What's your opinion?

Write a Letter to the editor
at Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com or put your opinion
on Town Square at www.PleasantonWeekly.com

Take Us Along



Waterproof Weekly

After a day of kayaking in Enseñada, Mexico, (l-r) Cindi Nielsen, Joelle Johnson, Matt Nielsen and Todd Johnson enjoy taking a break and reading the Weekly.



What a good daughter

Lisa Stephens and Danny Gerton read the Weekly during a trip to Venice, Italy where the couple joined Lisa's parents, who were celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary.



Sunny in Sydney

Sue Evans reads the Weekly on a spectacular "winter" day in Sydney, Australia as she enjoys views of the Sydney Bridge and Opera House.



Hot dense reading

While the Weekly may not be a science-oriented paper, Kevin Fournier still enjoyed reading it in Albufeira, Portugal after attending the 12th International Workshop on Hot Dense Matter.



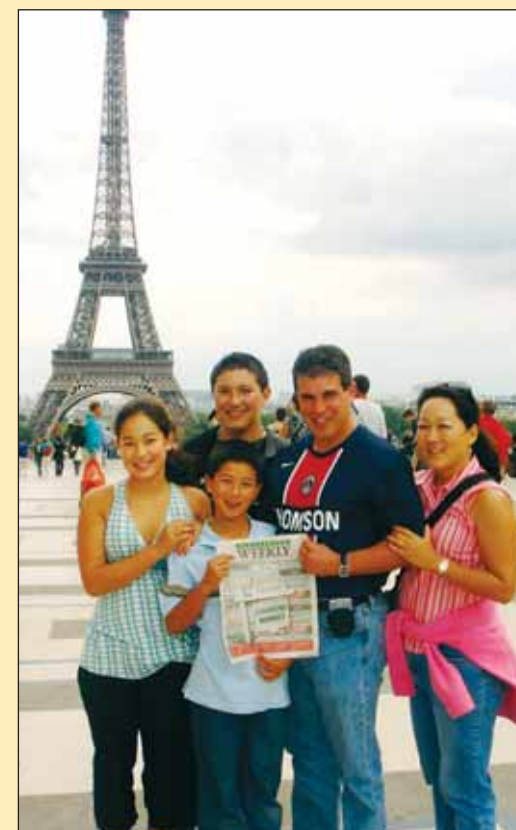
Living history

It may have been summer vacation, but Jake Howarth got a lesson in history and current events as he read the Weekly in front of the Chateau de Chenonceau in the Loire Valley, France. The castle was built in 1513.



Weekly passes the time

Jack Wentz reads the Weekly at Waimea Canyon on the island of Kauai. He reports that reading the Weekly was a great way to pass the time on the plane from San Francisco to Hawaii.



French connection

The Siegel family, Rene, Eric, Arielle, Adam and Jared, made visiting the Eiffel Tower even more special by bringing the Weekly with them.

Forbidden Weekly?

Don and Lorna Kruse share the Weekly with two students while visiting the Forbidden City in Beijing, China.



Alcohol Safety Tips...

- Alcohol is the #1 drug of choice among teens in America.
- Alcohol kills more young people than all illicit drugs combined.
- Talk to your teens about drinking and the consequences of underage drinking.
- Be a good example for your children and take an active role in keeping your children safe.

By working together,
we can ensure a safe
community.

*A reminder from the
Pleasanton Police Department.*



Transitions

Obituaries

Grace Glaum

Grace Glaum died March 26 in Pleasanton at the age of 87.

A former resident of Santa Cruz for many years and a resident of Pleasanton for 40 years, Mrs. Glaum was born Nov. 22, 1919 in DeWitt, Neb. After college she taught third and fourth grade in Alexandria, Neb. She and her husband Donald moved to California in 1946.

She was a member of the Pleasanton Presbyterian Church, where she was active in several women's groups, and a member of the Rainbow Stringers. She loved to sing as well as play her piano and organ. She loved children and spent many years as a Sunday school teacher, both in Pleasanton and in Santa Cruz, where she was also a member of the Presbyterian church. She was a volunteer reading partner for many years in the elementary schools.

Mrs. Glaum is survived by her husband Donald of 63 years; two sons, Ron Glaum of Livermore and Randy Glaum of Merced; daughter Judee Berry of Loma Rica; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

A memorial service was scheduled for April 14. Contributions may be made to Dublin Hope Hospice, 6500 Dublin Blvd. Ste. 100, Dublin CA 94568 or a charity of your choice.

his free time helping others, relaxing at his cabin or playing with his grandchildren. Mr. Hilbelink was a proficient, self-taught carpenter who could be found doing various carpentry projects in his garage. He was blessed with the gift of service.

He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Elaine Hilbelink; their three children, Kacey, John and Adam; grandchildren David, Addison, and Ashlyn; brothers, Larry and Ron and sister, Ann.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Paul Hilbelink memorial fund for At Your Service Ministries, c/o Valley Community Church. Services and a reception were scheduled for April 10 at Valley Community Church.

Bonnie Little

Bonnie Little died April 5 in Pleasanton at the age of 65.

Mrs. Little was born in Omaha, Neb. and moved to Pleasanton 30 years ago. For 20 years she worked as a sales clerk at Mervyn's. She enjoyed shopping, gardening and spending time with her family.

She is survived by her husband of 46 years, Russell Little; sons Ray Little of Oakdale, Calif. and Mike Little of Pleasanton; grandchildren Kimberly, David, Jessica, Shannon and Stephanie; and great-grandchild Kelly.

Private services were scheduled and donations can be made to Hope Hospice or the American Cancer Society.

Jane Campbell

Jane Campbell died April 8 at the age of 52 after a valiant, 16-month fight against lymphoma.

Born in Pershore, United Kingdom on March 21, 1955, Mrs. Campbell worked as a personnel manager. She lived in Houston for nine years before moving to Pleasanton six years ago.

She touched many lives in a positive way and had an easy way

(continued on page 15)

The Pleasanton Weekly website just got better.

- More daily and breaking news updates
- Interactive Community Calendar
- Local Blogs
- Viewer Polls

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Obituaries

(continued from page 14)

with everyone she met. She offered support and friendship to many people, often placing their needs above her own. Her family deeply loved her and will miss her dearly.

She is survived by husband of 29 years, Robert Campbell; sons Andrew and James; brother David Bryant; and sisters Gillian Holden and Susan Stirling.

A funeral was scheduled for April 13 at Valley Community Church. Donations can be made to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society or the American Diabetes Association.

Rudy Enriquez

Rudy Enriquez died unexpectedly April 12 at his home in Pleasanton at the age of 52.

Born in Huntington Park, Calif. on Jan. 20, 1955, he called Pleasanton home for 33 years. He graduated from Sunset High School in Hayward in 1973.

He is survived by parents Richard and Linda Benson of Pleasanton; sisters Jill Felts of Pleasanton and Julie (George) Avila of Livermore; brother Anthony (Rebecca) Gonzales of Pleasanton; nieces and nephews Susan, Michael, Andrew, Alyssa, Rachel and Ashley.

A private service was scheduled to be held in Johnsville, Calif.

Births

The following information on Pleasanton births was provided by ValleyCare Medical Center.

March 5

Kristy J. and Ray J. O'Dell, a boy

March 14

Stacey and Joe Murray, a boy

March 17

Naraya and Eric David Hockaday, a girl

March 18

Sheryl Ann and Allan Gilles Thompson, a boy

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

Transitions
Pleasanton Weekly
5506 Sunol, Suite 100.
Pleasanton, CA 95926
Or fax: (925) 600-9559

Or e-mail:
editor@PleasantonWeekly.com
(subject: Transitions)

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

The Weekly reserves the right to edit information for space and format considerations.

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Ship of Hope Gala

Blackhawk Museum Danville, California Friday, May 4, 2007 Benefiting Hope Hospice

\$85 per person
Reserved Seating – Table of 10
Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres: 6:30 p.m.
Exceptional Cuisine by Scott's: 7:30 p.m.
Copacabana Attire: Cocktail - Black Tie Optional
Emcee: Roberta Gonzales, KPIX 5 Emmy Award Winning Anchor

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Ships Registry: The Bahamas and Panama

Green Day

How is Pleasanton doing it for the environment?

Earth Day-themed events this weekend

Sports Park

An Earth Day celebration sponsored by the City of Pleasanton and Zone 7 Water Agency will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday near the snack shack at the Sports Park, Parkside Drive at Hopyard Road.

Event-goers will receive prizes and be invited to visit different stations to learn how the key elements of a healthy environment work and how to keep them from being polluted. Participants can learn household tips that are less toxic, see how the local stormwater system works, learn why water conservation is critical, find out how important our groundwater basin is and discover ways to garden with less toxins from master gardeners.

The Pleasanton Ad Hoc Trails Group will be on hand to talk to people about the local trails. Cub Scouts and other individual volunteers will also be making a contribution by cleaning along the creeks.

Alameda County Fairgrounds

Sponsored by the City of Pleasanton, residents will be able to drop off unwanted televisions, computer monitors and other e-waste at a free electronics collection event from noon to 5 p.m. today, and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday at the fairgrounds.

Forms of acceptable e-waste include: computers, televisions, VCRs, DVD players, PDAs, stereos, radios, copiers, cell phones, printers, fax machines and camcorders. Not acceptable are large appliances, kitchen appliances, ovens or stoves, dishwashers and packaging.

Mt. Diablo State Park

Mount Diablo State Park will be celebrating Earth Day with festivities planned from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the park's Mitchell Canyon staging area in Clayton.

A variety of work projects will be held including exotic, non-native plant removal, barbed wire fence removal and trail restoration. All ages, including families are welcome. Registration is required. Contact State Park Ranger Ryen Goering at 837-6129 or by email to junctionrangers@earthlink.net.

Gloves, hand tools, trash bags and refreshments will be provided. Carpooling is recommended. Parking and shuttle service will be available at Pine Hollow Middle School in Concord, 5522 Pine Hollow Road.

story and photos by Janet Pelletier

Earth Day will be celebrated across the country on Sunday. While it was made an annual holiday in 1970, it is this year that news about global warming and climate change is dominating the front page and leading the nightly newscast.

A recent California Field Poll revealed that eight out of 10 Californians (81 percent) describe global warming as a very serious (56 percent) or somewhat serious (25 percent) problem. Just one in five approves of the job that the federal government is doing to deal with the problem.

Voters, however, are in support of state legislation that was passed last year requiring that California reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent by 2020.

Going solar

On a local level, the city is working on a pilot program to encourage green building.

Recently, Pleasanton has been working with the city of Livermore on a Solar Cities Program. It would bring together residents, businesses and organizations to encourage green building practices such as installing solar panels and other energy-efficient products into homes, buildings and municipal facilities. Both cities are currently compiling data and enlisting community stakeholders to participate in the program, according to Scott Baker, Pleasanton's assistant director of public works.

"We're sketching out an outline for what this program's going to be and now we're doing our first outreach to potential stakeholders," Baker said. "After that, assuming that we get all the feedback we need, we'll modify the program to what we think is everybody's needs and both (cities will) take it back to their respective City Councils and see what the next step is."

The state offers incentives for people who utilize green building practices, but often times, there's a lot of red tape to go through that may prevent them from applying for them. The Solar Cities Program aims to simplify the process, lend a helping hand and encourage the use of environmentally efficient products and materials.

The first stakeholder meetings will be held on May 3. A meeting for businesses and the community will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. and a meeting for homes and homeowners will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Both meetings will be held in the Cresta Blanca meeting room at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore.

For more information, call 925-550-5506.

Green report card

While the city is reaching out to residents and businesses to incorporate green building practices, some homebuilders are already well on their way to doing that in town.

Ponderosa Homes is building a new development at Ironwood and the Estates off Busch Road. It offers a solar panel option for prospective homebuyers such as a 10 percent reduction of solar roof systems in exchange for an extra cost and so far, the program has been well received.

Last Saturday, Centex Home Development Avignon held an open house to showcase its GreenPoint Rated model home at Machado Place, off Vineyard and East Bay. The first development in the East Bay to be GreenPoint Rated, which was created by a local-based nonprofit organization called GreenPoint Rated.

The organization is a third-party to rate homes. The organization's "green" features include energy-efficient lighting, a report card and energy-efficient conservation features that improve air quality, water conservation and energy design. The organization must receive a score of 70 points to be GreenPoint Rated; Avignon scored 78 points.

A recent California Field Poll revealed that eight out of 10 Californians (81 percent) describe global warming as a very serious (56 percent) or somewhat serious (25 percent) problem

So far, the homes include no-added fiberglass insulation, engineered beams, joists and subflooring that release less gases and a tight seal to keep contaminants out. The development also scored highly for tankless water heaters and kilowatt integrated solar cells. For more information on GreenPoint Rated, visit www.builditgreen.com.

The youngest generation

In its fifth year, the Go Green program remains strong in Pleasanton. Created by Pleasanton residents, it is now the largest and fastest growing environmental education program operating in 30 states, the United Kingdom and in parts of Africa.

The program aims to teach the youngest generation about ways to conserve energy and waste and to become stewards of the environment. Alisal Elementary



Students at Alisal Elementary School take a few minutes during their lunchtime last Monday to check out booths that were set up for the school's Earth Week. Above, a representative with the city's Water Services explains how stormwater runoff affects the environment using a 3D model.

Pleasanton its part environment?

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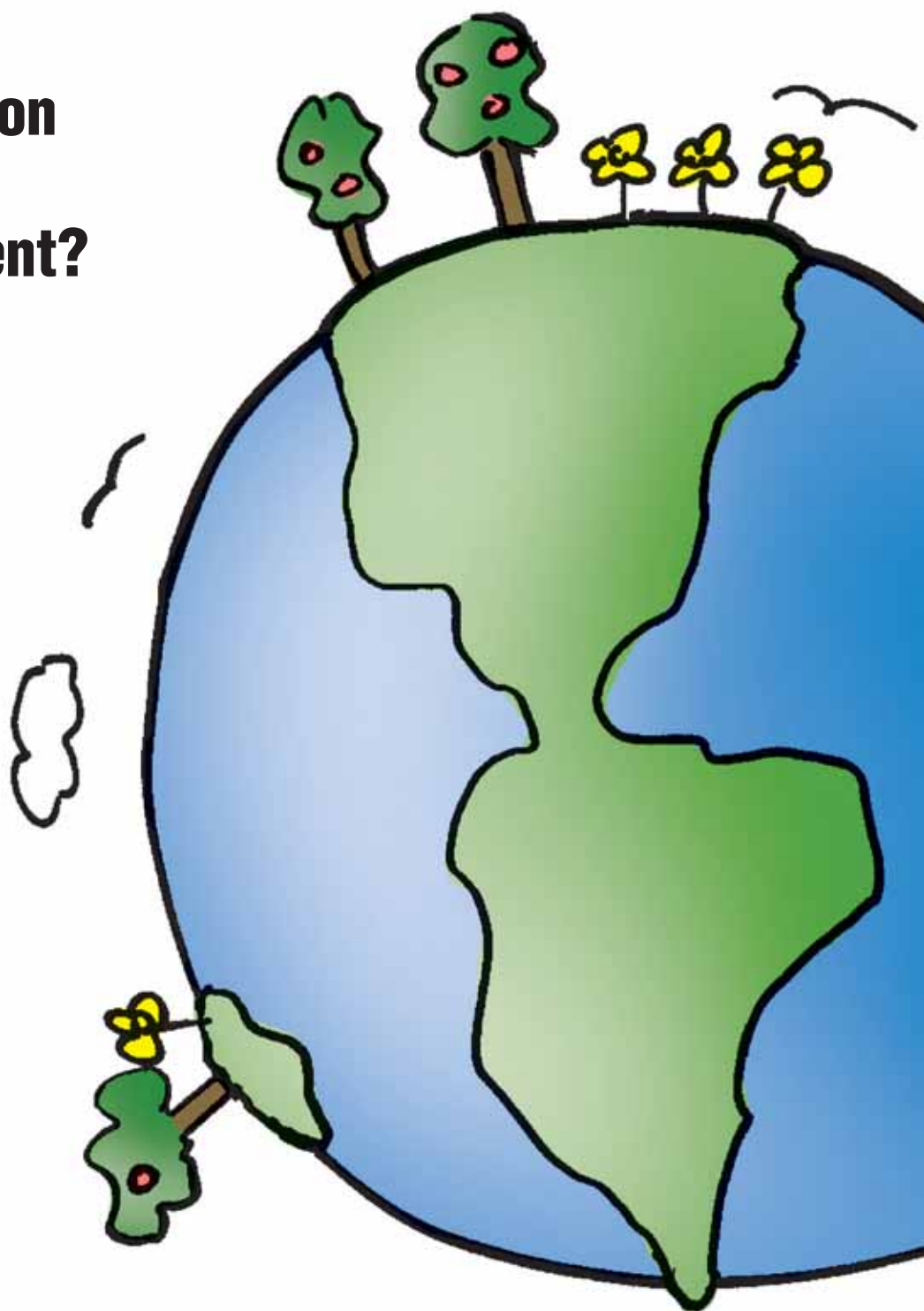
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Kevin Gilleran rates the level of "green" features used in a home and calculates points earned. Double-paned, low-E coating windows as seen in a home in the Avignon by Centex development off Vineyard Avenue reflect heat, saving the homeowner on his or her electricity bill.

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Matt Abruscato of Foothill Worm Ranch, shows a student red worms that he dug up from his backyard that morning. The worm ranch sells the critters to people who want to process their organic waste at home.

Earth Day

(continued from page 17)

Go Green school, has spent this past week participating in Earth Week for a third year in a row. Led by Go Green parent coordinator Karen Zengel, the school has had a variety of activities for each day. On Monday, students traveled around booths set up by Pleasanton Garbage Service, the Foothill Worm Ranch, Zone 7 Water Agency, the City of Pleasanton Water Service, Alameda County Health and Vector Control and the city's program naturalist, Eric Nicholas.

Students have also been submitting their designs for a mural contest incorporating the 4 R's: reduce, reuse, recycle and rot. Winning designs will be used by Zengel, who is a muralist, to create four collages for the ball walls on

the playground area. They will be painted this summer with the help of student and adult volunteers. Jay Gilbert Painting Company and Marti Gilbert of Alain Pinel Realtors are donating additional labor and the materials.

In addition, children will learn about the amount of waste that can be reduced by recycling products used to pack lunches as well as packing a lunch with as few disposable bags, packages, juice cartons and paper products as possible by using resealable containers, washable utensils and cloth napkins. During last year's Earth Week events, Alisal students reduced lunchtime trash waste by 60 pounds.

They will also attend an assembly featuring guest and former Pleasanton teacher Frank Helling, who will be dressed as John Muir and will talk about environmental stewardship. ■



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Community Pulse



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Joint General Plan Workshop

City Council and Planning Commission

Tuesday, April 24, 2007 @ 6:30 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave

- Discussion of the results of the General Plan Traffic Modeling with and without the Stoneridge Drive extension

Planning Commission

Wednesday, April 25, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- **PUD-33, James Tong/Charter Properties; Jennifer Lin, Frederic Lin, and Kevin Lin**

Consideration of: (1) an application for a PUD development plan for the Oak Grove development to subdivide an approximately 562 acre site into 51 custom home sites and to designate the remaining area for permanent open space; (2) the Final Environmental Impact Report for the proposal; and (3) the Development Agreement to vest the entitlements covered by this application. The property is located at 1400 Hearst Drive, near the present terminus of Hearst Drive on the southerly sides of the Vintage Hills and the Grey Eagle Estates developments.

- **PCUP 192, R-Tek Communications, Inc. and Cold Room Solutions, Inc.**

Application for conditional use permits to allow the operation of two construction and/or construction-related business offices located at 1181 Quarry Lane, Unit 350, and 3942 Valley Avenue, Unit L, respectively, within the Valley Business Park.

Trails Ad Hoc Committee

Monday, April 23, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Conference Room, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- Informational item regarding the results of Staples Ranch Community Park Reviews with the Parks & Recreation Commission
- Review of meeting schedule for May through August 2007
- Results of Earth Day event
- Update from the Parks and Recreation Commission
- Trail projects status report

NOTICE OF COMMISSION/COMMITTEE VACANCIES

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

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

- Human Services Commission, 2 Members, 1 Alternate
- Parks & Recreation Commission, 1 Alternate
- Youth Commission, 4 Members, 2 Alternates
- Economic Vitality Committee
- (1) Biomedical Representative
- (1) Financial Institution Representative

Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee (One-Year Term)

- At-Large Parent Representatives
- (1) Pre-School Representative; (1) Elementary School Representative
- 1 Health and Crisis Representative
- 1 Non-Profit Agency Representative
- 1 Senior Citizen Representative
- 1 Youth and 1 Alternate Representative from Village High School
- 1 Youth Representative from Hart Middle School

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

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

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

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

Police Bulletin

Gun threats in Pleasanton lead to 5-hour standoff in Oakland

A 32-year-old woman was arrested Sunday after gun threats in Pleasanton led to a five-hour standoff in Oakland, according to police. The woman, Luciana Avila of Oakland, threatened to kill a female newspaper carrier from San Pablo who was her former partner, police said.

The victim, whose name has not been released, was reportedly being stalked by Avila over the past three weeks, following their separation. Avila confronted the victim while on her delivery route at Brooktree Way in Pleasanton at about 6:15 a.m. last Sunday. After her request to reconcile was refused, police said Avila then revealed a handgun, saying she'd kill the woman and then herself. The victim was able to flee and call police.

Shortly after the call, officers spotted Avila's vehicle traveling westbound on I-580 where California Highway Patrol officers took over the pursuit. Avila exited the freeway at Seminary Avenue and eventually stopped on 68th Avenue in Oakland.

With a gun pointed to her head, Avila refused to get out of the vehicle and Oakland police arrived to assist. The Oakland Police Department's tactical team and hostage negotiation team talked with Avila for almost five hours, police said, and at 12:20 p.m., she was taken into custody. She suffered minor injuries in the struggle and was taken for psychiatric evaluation with criminal charges pending for brandishing a firearm, criminal threats, stalking and evading.

Round Table Pizza burglarized

A security company for Round Table Pizza, 530 Main St., notified Pleasanton police of an alarm and movement in the restaurant's dining area last Sunday around 5:40 a.m. Two officers went to the scene and found the suspect forced entry into a window on the east side of the building that was about 7 feet from the ground. The suspect had fled the restaurant and the officers found the glass from the main door was also broken. Officers said the safe was broken into and a computer was taken. The loss was estimated at \$2,000 and the damage at \$1,000.

Police Report

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

April 6

- DUI: 1
- Found property: 1
- Theft:
 - 1:29 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; from building, worth \$50-199
 - 2:00 p.m. in the 3600 block of Woodbine Way; forged checks
 - 2:35 p.m. in the 4000 block of Pimlico Drive; worth less than \$50
 - 4:35 p.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road; from building
 - 8:30 p.m. in the 7900 block of Stoneridge Drive; from building, worth \$50-199
- Assault:
 - 12:59 a.m. in the 6400 block of Alvord Way
 - 8:39 p.m. at the intersection of Dorman Road and W. Las Positas Boulevard

April 7

- DUI: 2
- Theft:
 - 1:25 a.m. in the 6700 block of Corte Santa Maria; from building, worth over \$400
 - 12:30 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting, worth \$50 or less
 - 7:00 p.m. in the 200 block of Old Bernal Avenue; robbery with a knife
- Vandalism:
 - 5:50 p.m. in the 8200 block of Regency Drive; worth less than \$1,000
- Commercial burglary:
 - 6:35 a.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle
- Public drunkenness:
 - 11:30 a.m. in at the intersection of Fairlands Drive and Bairs Court
- Assault:
 - 2:37 p.m. in the 5400 block of Sunol Boulevard

April 8

- DUI: 1

- Found property: 1
- Theft:
 - 2:00 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; worth \$50-199
- Vandalism:
 - 7:28 a.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive; public, worth \$1,000 or less
 - 11:15 p.m. in the 1800 block of Valley Avenue; commercial, worth \$1,000 or less
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 9:15 a.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle; worth over \$400
- Public drunkenness:
 - 12:32 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and W. Las Positas Boulevard
- Concealed gun:
 - 8:14 p.m. in the 5700 block of Owens Drive

April 9

- Threat by fear: 1
- Theft:
 - 9:17 a.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle; worth over \$400
 - 11:29 a.m. in the 2000 block of Greenwood Road; credit card fraud
 - 4:00 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth \$50-200
- Public vandalism:
 - 7:53 a.m. in the 4700 block of Muirwood Drive; worth over \$1,000
 - 2:25 p.m. in the 5800 block of Parkside Drive; worth less than \$1,000
- Assault:
 - 3:12 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road
 - 3:47 a.m. in the 4300 block of Fairlands Drive

April 10

- DUI: 1
- Found property: 1
- Annoying phone calls: 1
- Bicycle theft:
 - 6:40 p.m. in the 4400 block of Hacienda Drive; worth over \$400
- Vandalism:
 - 8:11 a.m. in the 5800 block of Krause Street
 - 2:20 p.m. in the 3700 block of

- Stoneridge Drive; public, worth over \$1,000
- 6:48 p.m. at the intersection of I-680 and Stoneridge Drive; public, worth \$1,000 or less
- Commercial burglary:
 - 10:03 a.m. in the 5500 block of Spring House Drive
- Assault:
 - 2:09 a.m. in the 4300 block of Krause Street
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 9:05 a.m. in the 300 block of Christina Court; synthetic drug possession
 - 12:30 p.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
- Animal reports:
 - 10:49 a.m. in the 3700 block of Trener Drive; animal nuisance
 - 12:00 p.m. in the 4100 block of Wells Street; domestic animal bites

April 11

- Found property: 2
- Theft:
 - 4:01 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth less than \$50
 - 5:15 p.m. in the 4000 block of San Giorgio Court; bicycles, worth over \$400
 - 10:00 p.m. in the 6400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; forged checks
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 1:06 a.m. in the 1300 block of Stony Brooks Lane; amphetamine possession
 - 1:21 a.m. in the 3700 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
 - 8:52 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Valley Avenue; marijuana possession
- Attempted suicide:
 - 1:06 a.m. in the 1300 block of Stony Brooks Lane
- Rape by force:
 - 8:00 a.m. in the 4100 block of Nevis Street

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Opinion

Editorial

Watch City Council on your laptop

For a city known for its high-tech businesses and entrepreneurs, it's only logical that the city government shows the same expertise in serving the communication needs of the public. Already, we can sign on to one of the best designed Web sites of any Bay Area municipality at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us to find an array of listings of services, people and activities. Wi-Fi, a free service that will make online access available to users in the downtown district, will be available later this spring. Last month, the city launched a streaming video broadcast of its City Council meetings—not a new technology, but a new service for municipal government communications in this area. Although the council meetings are broadcast live on TV30 Community Television's Channel 29, unless you record those broadcasts, there's no way of watching them again until the station rebroadcasts the meetings. TV30 sells DVDs of the council meetings for \$25, which are available several days later.

Streaming video offers crystal clear pictures of the council meetings, using the same city-owned video cameras that TV30 uses. By the next morning, Darla Stevens, former executive director of TV30 who now has her own consulting firm, "bookmarks" the streaming video and puts it on the city's Web site along with the agenda packet of that same meeting. That gives viewers the opportunity to watch the meeting in its entirety, fast-forward or rewind, or highlight a bookmark on the agenda and watch that specific segment. Two weeks ago, for example, there was a long discussion about the Tri-Valley Triangle Study. If you want to watch just that segment, open up the city's Web site, go to the April 3 agenda, and click on the highlighted URL next to that topic. The system also comes in handy for city management and other personnel. Police Chief Mike Fraser, alerted to a comment a speaker made at the start of the April 3 meeting about a patrol car parked at Safeway, was able to bring up that conversation on streaming video on his office computer to see what the complaint was about.

Streaming video also helps the growing number of residents in Pleasanton who have opted out of community television, which is carried only by Comcast, in favor of Direct TV and rooftop dishes. In San Ramon, which is one of the cities TV30 covers as part of its four-city contract and subsidy agreement, about half are now without Comcast connections. Many who live outside of the four city coverage area, including our own City Clerk Karen Diaz and Assistant City Clerk Karen Gonzales, who live in Fremont and Modesto, respectively, can also watch the City Council at work by logging on to the city's Web site and streaming video at home. Even when you're traveling anywhere in the U.S. or beyond with Wi-Fi and online hookups, you can now keep up with your local government in action.

In fact, it was Diaz who suggested adding streaming video to the city's growing list of communications services when she was hired last year. A technology guru, she had introduced the system in Brentwood. At an annual cost of roughly \$15,000, the opportunity was too good to pass up for City Manager Nelson Fialho, who gave the go-ahead at once, and the service has been available since early March. Just how long streaming videos of previous council meetings will remain on the city server is not certain, since there's an enormous storage requirement on the city's servers, but Fialho expects they'll be available for at least 12 months. He's also moving to activate the Wi-Fi system downtown and to possibly expand it to other parts of Pleasanton. At the same time, cell phone towers also are being upgraded by private carriers with the city's cooperation, all in the spirit of improved communications in the city that needs it.

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

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

Submitting a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Pleasanton Weekly and Embarcadero Publishing Company to also publish it online, including in our online archives and as a post on Town Square. For more information contact Editor Jeb Bing at 600-0840.

Letters

Fools story not newsworthy

Dear Editor,

All pranksters like to know that their efforts produced the proverbial 15 minutes of fame. But the coverage given to my April Fools prank crosses into the absurd.

Why would the Pleasanton Weekly care about this meaningless caper so much as to devote over 800 words to it? Why would it be so compelled to cover this non-event that it would resort to a practice of journalism well below the standard that any of us would set for it?

In order to get this story to press, the Weekly allowed the inclusion of hearsay quotes, unfounded innuendo, unsubstantiated allegations and plain old grammatical errors. What is really going on here?

Did the Weekly really want to allow the suggestion that my little prank could have been: a conspiracy among members of city government; the product of reckless email practice; or the cause of a rift between the Planning Commission Chair and the Mayor, between whom there has been bad blood for years?

And to which Weekly reporter did I say the things attributed to me? While I offered to speak on the record, no reporter called me. Yet a fabricated quote appears with my name attached to it.

This was poor editorial judgment and sloppy reporting all around. The Weekly seems obsessed with the Trinity Lutheran Church story, printing an editorial after the council meeting that sounded like so many sour grapes, and then covering an April Fools prank.

What exactly is the Weekly's relationship with Trinity Lutheran Church? That is the real story.

Rick Altman, Pleasanton

Unfair coverage to Torrico

Dear Editor,

I was excited when the Pleasanton Weekly decided they were going to do a three-part series on our Assemblymembers. So I read with great interest the Feb. 23 cover story on Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi (18th Assembly District) and the March 2 cover story on Assemblymember Guy Houston (15th AD). And then part three, no cover story, but a page 9 article for Assemblymember Alberto Torrico (20th AD)? This seems like unfair coverage.

I thought, maybe his district represents a small number of Pleasanton residents. No, in fact it is AD 15 that has the smallest percentage of Pleasanton, not the district that Torrico represents. The 20th AD includes, among others, the esteemed neighborhoods of Ruby Hill, Vintage Hills, Happy Valley and downtown. Was this an intentional slight to Assemblyman Torrico? It outwardly seems so. Shouldn't the Weekly have included in the article the fact that Assemblymember Torrico has been named Legislator of the Year by four groups, including the Peace

Officers Research Association of California (PORAC) and the California State Firefighters Association? Or that he chairs the Governmental Organization Committee that is generally recognized as one of the most powerful committees in Sacramento?

If the Pleasanton Weekly wants to be a respected local news outlet, respect your readers by providing them fair and balanced information.

Susan Piekarski, Pleasanton

Council's Trinity decision 'bad and ugly'

Dear Editor,

As a 28-year Pleasanton resident, I have seen the "good, bad, and the ugly" in our councils. This one is both "bad and ugly." The council together with city staff pre-empted the Trinity Lutheran church's legally developed, conscientiously-considered development plan with their own! They vote for their own plan without considering the merits of the legally vetted plan! And someone labeled it a compromise. Compromise with whom? Incredible! Where is due process in this all? I hope the Trinity Lutheran group draws a line in the sand and demands their rights. Don't we have a city attorney that keeps this crowd in check?

Frank Doljack, Pleasanton

Thanks from Axis

Dear Editor,

On behalf of Axis Community Health's patients and staff, we would like to thank you for the generous contribution we received from the Pleasanton Weekly's Holiday Fund. We are very proud to be a part of this generous and caring community.

The donation we received from the Holiday Fund will support the pediatric services we provide for low income working families in the Tri-Valley. The need for pediatric care at Axis continues to grow rapidly. In the past year, we provided more than 4,000 medical visits for low income children in our community, and our pediatric services continue to grow each year as more and more families come to us for help.

We would also like to thank the Tri-Valley Community Foundation, which matched the donations to the Holiday Fund. The Pleasanton Weekly, the tri-Valley Community Foundation, and the many wonderful contributors to this fund are truly making a difference in our community. We are most grateful!

Sue Compton

Associate Executive Officer, Axis

Triangle Traffic Committee bullies Pleasanton

Dear Editor,

The recent vote by the Dublin, Livermore and Alameda County politicians on the Tri-Valley Triangle Traffic Committee eliminating highway 84 improvements from being forwarded to the CMA for approval should open the eyes of Pleasanton residents. These politicians are trying to coerce Pleasanton into extending Stoneridge Drive. In fact, they are willing to forego long sought after Highway 84 improve-

(continued on page 22)

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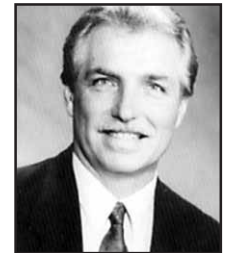
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Letters

(continued from page 21)

ments in order to force the extension. Why? Because they view an extended Stoneridge Drive as an east-west arterial, an alternate expressway from I-680 to El Charro that will allow commuters from Dublin, Livermore and beyond to bypass the I-580/I-680 junction, as well as the section of the I-580 that is the second worst congested route in the Bay area.

Pleasanton residents along Valley Avenue, who seem to believe that the Stoneridge Drive extension will solve all of their traffic problems, should take note. Does anyone really think that Dublin, Livermore and Alameda County politicians would eliminate a regional highway improvement in order to force a Pleasanton residential street extension just to benefit other Pleasanton residents? Of course not! They obviously believe that extending Stoneridge Drive will provide regional freeway congestion relief by off-loading huge numbers of new commuter cut-through traffic through Pleasanton. Far from providing relief for our internal traffic problems, this will only exacerbate our issues.

Stoneridge Drive is a Pleasanton residential street. Whether or not it's extended is a Pleasanton issue and should not be included in, or held hostage to, freeway and highway improvements that address regional traffic congestion.

Thank you Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and Councilmember Cindy McGovern for standing against the bullying tactics of the Tri-Valley Triangle Traffic Committee.

Billie Otis, Pleasanton

More parking needed downtown

Dear Editor,

As an owner of one of the "mom and pop" (our description per the State of the City address by Mayor Jennifer Hosterman) business in downtown Pleasanton, I was very interested in the "State of the City" article (Cover Story, March 30). It sure sounds like there are a lot of good things happening for Pleasanton: development, state-of-the-art communications, environmental awareness, etc. My question is: Where are all the people going to park when they come to town to enjoy all these happenings? Possibly a solution is already in the works, but as a sole proprietor I am unable to close my "mom" business to attend meetings when this subject may be discussed, so I rely on the written word for updates. We are in desperate need of parking!

I personally have decided to take public transportation due to gas prices, but it also makes available one parking space. If anyone is interested in taking my space, I used to park in the public lot on West Angela. However, you must arrive before 8:00 a.m. to take advantage of this offer since by 10:00 a.m. or so, the lot is full and believe me there is no street parking. Just ask the customers! More parking cannot happen too soon.

*Ann M. Capps
Owner, The Berry Patch*

Thanks from the Cultural Arts Foundation

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Pleasanton Weekly for including us in this year's Holiday Fund. We are thrilled with the substantial contribution that the Fund provided. This is a wonderful boost to our campaign. We also appreciated the added visibility for our project, through the coverage in the Pleasanton Weekly during the campaign.

We truly appreciate the efforts of the Pleasanton Weekly staff, as well as the Tri-Valley Community Foundation, in encouraging members of our community to contribute to PCAF and the other well-deserving charities included this year.

The unflagging support of the Pleasanton Weekly, from the very early days of the campaign to build a new arts center, has been very much appreciated. As one of the key communications vehicles in this community, your ongoing support of the Firehouse Arts Center project means so much to us.

Thank you again for your generous donation to our campaign and your wonderful support of the Firehouse Arts Center and the arts in Pleasanton.

*Debbie Look,
Campaign Director, PCAF*



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Calendar

Auditions

Stupid Pet and Human Tricks CBS 5 is holding auditions for Late Night with David Letterman's Stupid Pet and Human Tricks from 1 to 4 p.m. April 28 at the San Jose Home Show, San Jose McEnery Convention Center, 150 W. San Carlos St. Free admission to the first 50 registrants. Visit www.cbs5.com/contests.

Author Visits

Wal-Mart: Good or Bad for America? The Independent Institute, 100 Swan Way in Oakland, presents an Independent Policy Forum: Is Wal-Mart Good or Bad for America? from 6:30 to 9 p.m. May 8. The debate features Ken Jacobs (Chair, U.C. Berkeley Labor Center) and Richard Vedder (co-author, "The Wal-Mart Revolution"). Tickets are \$15 (or \$10 for members). Add "The Wal-Mart Revolution" for \$30 (or \$25 for members). Call (510) 632-1366.

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, call 943-6464 or visit www.playhousewest.org.

Can you ever retire? This down-to-earth retirement planning workshop will help you clarify how much money you'll need and what to focus on before you retire so you can avoid unpleasant financial surprises. Instructed by Christina Ahlstrand, CFP, it meets from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 28 at Village High School, 4645 Bernal Avenue, room 701, and is \$35. Call 426-4280.

Love and Logic: Early Childhood Valley Christian Center, 7500 Inspiration Drive in Dublin, presents a class called Love and Logic's Early Childhood Parenting Made Fun: Creating happy families and responsible kids from birth to six with practical tips, powerful tools and immediate results. It runs from 7 to 8:30 p.m. every Wednesday from April 25 through June 7. It is \$25 per person. For more information and to register online, visit www.dublinvcc.org. Childcare provided. 7-8:30 p.m. \$25.00 per person

Women and Money--Reach Your Potential From 7 to 9 p.m. every Tuesday through 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 workgroup 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.

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@webbearings.com or 373-7982.

NARFE The Livermore Chapter 0397 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association meets at 12:30 p.m. the second Thursday monthly at Emil Villa's Restaurant at the corner of Pacific and S. Livermore avenues in Livermore. Call 484-0813 or 846-7167.

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

Concerts

Cantabella Children's Chorus Spring Concert Cantabella Children's Chorus announces its 15th anniversary season with their Spring Concert, "15 years of Beautiful Singing" from 2 to 4 p.m. May 19 at Our Savior's Lutheran Ministry, 1385 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore. All alumni are specially invited to return and help celebrate and have the opportunity to share the stage with our two performing choirs. A \$5 donation is suggested. Contact Bee Chow at director@cantabella.org or 292-2663. Visit www.Cantabella.org.

Pianist Chu-Fang Huang Del Valle Fine Arts concert series presents 23-

Weekend Preview



Director honored at film festival

Director Bob Clark (above) will be honored at the California Independent Film Festival 2007 Slate Awards 7 p.m. this Saturday at the Vine Cinema, 1722 First Street, Livermore. Clark, best known for directing the films "A Christmas Story" and "Porky's," passed away in a car accident earlier this month with his son. Already slated to receive this award, the event will instead be held as tribute to Clark and his career. A 25th Anniversary Screening of "Porky's" and a question and answer session with "Porky's" cast members will follow the tribute. For a schedule of other festival events happening through Sunday and to purchase tickets, visit www.caindiefest.com.

year-old Chu-Fang Huang in concert from 8 to 10 p.m. May 5 at First Presbyterian Church, 2050 5th St. at L St., Livermore. He became the first Chinese pianist to win first prize at the prestigious Cleveland International Piano Competition in August 2005. Tickets are \$18, \$16 for seniors and high school students are free. Visit www.delvallelinearts.com for details.

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 compos-

er 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 Las Positas College Library, building 2000, 3033 Collier Canyon Road in Livermore. Tickets available at the door: \$5 for students and \$15 for general admission. The venue is wheelchair accessible. For tickets and information call Marilyn Marquis at 424-1209 or visit www.lpclearlymusic.org.

Events

(continued on page 24)

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Adoption Faire at East County Animal Shelter Attend an Adoption Faire at East County Animal Shelter in Dublin, 4595 Gleason Drive, from 1:30 to 5 p.m. May 5. Brought to you by Tri-Valley Animal Rescue, the faire includes a professional dog trainer on-site; low-cost spay/neuter certificates; three free dog training sessions and accessories to dog adopters; free goodie baskets to cat adopters; and free hot dogs for all. Visit www.tvr.org.

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

California Classic Alpaca Show Over 400 alpacas and their owners will compete in a halter show from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 28 and 29 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. There will also be vendors selling alpaca-related products and educational displays for those people interested in becoming alpaca owners. This is a free event. Visit www.californiaclassicalpacashow.com.

Child Safety & Wellness Fair To coincide with Bring Your Child to Work Day, the California State Automobile Association and Bishop Ranch are joining forces and inviting the public to participate in a Child Safety and Wellness Fair. The fair will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 26 at Bishop Ranch 3 located at 2613 Camino Ramon, San Ramon. Admission is free.

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.

First Annual Tri-Valley Youth Food Drive The Food Drive will begin at 10 a.m. April 21, rain or shine. All donations will go to local food pantries. More than 80 youth service groups with up to 1,200 volunteers will be collecting non-perishable items from single-family residences in Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin, San Ramon,

Danville and Alamo. The Pleasanton collection will be at the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, 6100 Paseo Santa Cruz. Email david-bahr@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.

Foothill Grad Night Tickets Available Grad Night 2007 tickets are on sale for \$150 each through June 13. Visit www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/foothill and look under the Announcements/Activities section for information.

Hidden Creek Wine Release Hidden Creek will release a 2005 Napa Valley Syrah from 2 to 5 p.m. April 21 at Tesla Vintners, 5143 Tesla Road, Livermore. A great nose with bold rounded Syrah fruit flavors, the wine has structure so it can be aged or enjoyed quickly. Meet Jim Frost, wine-maker, and sample other wines. Call 606-WINE (9463).

Mother's Day Champagne Brunch Head to the wine country for Garre Winery's Mother's Day Champagne Brunch May 13 at 7986 Tesla Road, Livermore. Their chefs make omelettes to order, the buffet is filled with 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.

Muscle Cars, Hot Rods and Art Fair Hats Off America presents the fourth annual Muscle Cars, Hot Rods and Art Fair from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 19 and 20 at the grass fields at the corner of Bollinger Canyon Road and Camino Ramon in San Ramon. This event is free and families, but not pets, are welcome. Proceeds benefit families of US troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. For car display, booth prices or more information call Sparky at 855-1950 or email thebearflagrunner@yahoo.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, call 989-3990 or visit 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.

Saturday Salon Fourth Street Studio, 2235 Fourth Street in Livermore, hosts a Saturday Salon every Saturday from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Everyone's a featured writer and has up to 10 minutes to present their work. Call 456-3100.

Sister City Cinco de Mayo Celebration Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with Pleasanton Tulancingo Sister City Association from 1:30 to 4 p.m. May 6 at the Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center, 4455 Black Ave. Admission is free, and food and sodas will be available to purchase from a local restaurant. There will also be an 8-piece mariachi band, piOatas for the kids, raffles, and more.

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 Kilkare, Sunol. Tickets are \$10 for members and \$30 for non-members (includes membership). Call (408) 849-4749 or visit www.ace-club.com for details. 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Exhibits

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

Art Made Easy A community reception for the student exhibit, Art Made Easy, is scheduled from 7 to 9 p.m. April 30 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The art will be on display from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. May 1 through 3 and from 9 a.m. to noon May 4. Call 931-5340.

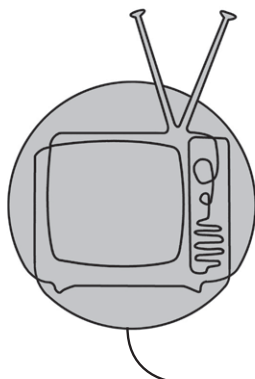
Emerging Young Artist Exhibit This is an art show of very talented Fremont/Newark area high school students of Dee Murphy and Keith Lark. Originals as well as prints, will be on sale and display for this show. The show runs through April 28 at Fremont

Electronics Collection Event

For the Pleasanton Community

TVs and computer monitors contain lead and cannot be thrown in the trash. Other electronics may also contain toxic components, and can be recycled or reused.

The City of Pleasanton is making it easy to recycle or properly dispose of your unwanted electronics (E-waste) with a free, weekend collection event.

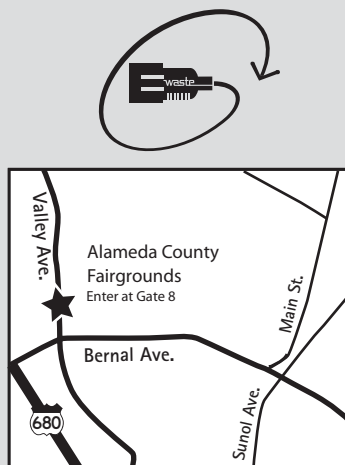


ACCEPTABLE E-WASTE:

Working or non-working computers radios televisions copiers VCRs cell phones DVD players printers PDAs fax machines stereos camcorders

NOT ACCEPTABLE:

large appliances white goods kitchen appliances ovens or stoves dishwashers packaging



For more information, call the City of Pleasanton at (925) 931-5051.

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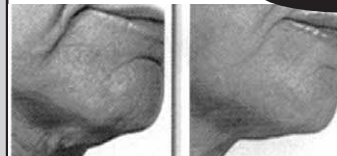


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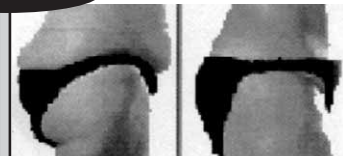
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Art Association Gallery, 37659 Niles Blvd., Fremont. Contact Dee Murphy at (510) 494-1515 for info.

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.

James Leonard Reception Meet James Leonard, one of California's leading abstract expressionist painters. Leonard works with acrylics on canvas using bold horizontal and vertical strokes and strong color to reach the viewer. A reception will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. April 21. The exhibit runs through May 6 at Studio 7 Fine Arts, 400 Main St. Visit www.studio-7finearts.com.

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. His work is 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. Call 846-6015 or visit www.alexander-smainstgallery.com.

Wine Tasting Party at Studio 7

See some incredible art pieces while enjoying wines from a variety of boutique wineries with Specialty French Appetizers from 7 to 9 p.m. May 5 at Studio 7 Fine Arts Gallery, 400 Main St. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$30 at the door. Call 945-8340 or visit <http://winesocials.com>.

Film

CA Independent Film Festival The CA Independent Film Festival is in Livermore through April 22. The week event includes 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.

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 or (510) 635-3663 ext. 328. Visit www.cropwalk.org.

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

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

more info.

Hats Off America 3rd Annual

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

Hidden Gardens of the Valley

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

Paint Our Town Purple

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

Ship of Hope Gala

Join us for "A Night in Rio de Janeiro," with emcee KPIX 5's Roberta Gonzales from 6:30 to 11 p.m. May 4 at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Be a part of "Carnaval," the world's most famous party! Cuisine by Scott's. The night features a floor show with Samba do Coracao, silent and live auctions, and dancing to the CoolTones. Tickets are \$85. Call 829-8770 or visit www.hopehospice.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.tvlar.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. May 1 called "Breast Health: Lymph Loving!" This stand-alone, free seminar will teach self-massage. Participants will leave with self-care techniques to use at home. Call 461-2533 or visit 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.

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.

Holiday

English Rose Offers Special Tea for Moms The English Rose Tea Room, 163 Neal St., specializes in pampering its guests. To offer local residents a way to thank their moms and give them extra love and care, the

business is offering a special Mother's Day Tea from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 12. The menu will include the usual traditional afternoon tea and special treats. Tickets are \$25 per person. Contact Lisa Binzoni at 462-6233.

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. April 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.

Educulture International Foreign

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

Girl of the Month Nominations

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

Mother/Daughter Spa Event

Bond and enjoy the Pure Girls Mother/Daughter Spa Event on from 6 to 8 p.m. May 10, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 26 or 2 to 4 p.m. May 27 at 660 Main St. Teens get a spa etiquette overview then both of you receive a free skin care review and spa escape before either a manicure or a pedicure. Call 485-4380 or visit www.puregirlsclub.com. \$59 per pair

Lectures/ Workshops

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.mercyretirement-center.org for info.

(continued on page 26)

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WHEN: April 21-29, between 9am-11am (for Drop Off)
WHERE: The Steenman's 6434 Paseo Santa Maria, Pleasanton
CONTACT: Janine Steenman call (925) 249-1302
or email: jmsteenman@comcast.net
We will happily try to accommodate your schedule.



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

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

NCHRA Tri-Valley: HSA's 101 Review basics and trends in health savings accounts at the Tri-Valley chapter of the Northern California Human Resources Association workshop from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 9 at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Oakley. Earn 1 CPE credit and network with other HR professionals. Tickets are \$30 for members, \$50 for non-members. Call 809-3522.

Seismic Retrofit Education for Homeowners Simpson Strong Tie will host a free four-hour seminar to discuss the ways seismic activity can affect a home and what homeowners can do to strengthen their home to resist earthquake forces. The seminar is from 8 a.m. to noon April 21 at the Simpson Strong-Tie Home Office, 5956 W. Las Positas Blvd. To register, call (800) 999-5099.

Live Music

Lounge Entertainment The Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St., hosts several acts in April. For a full list of performers, visit www.pleasantonhotel.com. Happy hour, featuring a \$2.99 bar menu, is available from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays.

Posterboy The Pleasanton Public Library will be hosting a teen-only musical performance by local band Posterboy in the library's teen area May 5. Art by local high school students will also be on display. The program is free and open to teens ages 13 and up. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the show starts at 7 p.m.

Miscellaneous

Artists' Flea Market The public is invited to the Artists' Flea Market from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 5 at DeLucchi Park, First Street at Neal in downtown Pleasanton. New and used art supplies, equipment and discounted artwork will be on sale. Everyone invited to check out the great bargains.

Kittens Seek Foster Homes The East Bay SPCA's Foster Care Program

Pet of the Week



Tennis anyone?

Meet Hershey, a spayed female Newfoundland/Retriever mix who loves tennis balls, belly rubs and playing in the water. Hershey also loves to go for walks and she gets along well with other dogs. Hershey lived with a Pekingese in her previous home and she is house-trained and currently vaccinated. She has warm, brown eyes and brindle-colored fur. Hershey likes to be where the action is and she would enjoy a home where she would get a lot of exercise and attention. For more information about Hershey (pet #68581), visit her at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive, Dublin, open daily 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 803-7040. See www.tvar.org for photos of adoptable pets in foster care with Tri-Valley Animal Rescue.

seeks foster homes for the upcoming kitten season. For more information, contact the East Bay SPCA at (510) 563-4632 or visit www.eastbayspca.org/foster.

Letter Carriers Food Drive Help stamp out hunger with the National Association of Letter Carriers' 15th annual food drive. Leave non-perishable food donations near your home or business mailbox for pickup on May 12 when your mail is delivered. Call (510) 635-3663 ext. 318 or visit www.accfb.org for information.

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 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.

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.villagetheatreshows.com, or call 314-3400. Visit www.danvilletheatre.com for more info.

The Vagina Monologues The Tri-Valley Haven will present Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues" at 8 p.m. April 20 as a benefit for the Haven, which provides 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. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$30 at the door. Call 449-5845 or visit www.trivalleyhaven.org for details.

Political Notes

San Ramon Valley Republican Women Barbara Simpson, KSFO talk radio's "Babe in the Bunker," will address the San Ramon Valley Republican Women from 6 to 8:30 p.m. April 24 at the Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive in Danville. The topic will be global warming and other current public interest issues. The cost is \$30 per

person and the public is invited. For more information about the Republican Women go to srvrwf.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 S. 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, call 456-WINE (9463) or visit www.johnchristophercellars.com for details.

Seniors

Annual Golden Gala The Interact Club at Valley Christian High School will be hosting a free, Mardi Gras themed Senior Citizens Gala from 6 to 9 p.m. April 21 at the school's gym, 7500 Inspiration Drive in Dublin. There will be appetizers, desserts, a raffle, a bake-off contest, music and dancing. Call Sue King-Irwin at 560-6250 ext. 422.

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 mcorpora@ci.pleasanton.ca.us or call 931-3400 ext. 21 for details.

Long-Term Care Insurance Made Easy Long-term care insurance helps pay for the care you need when you can no longer care for yourself. It can protect your family's financial future and your own investments and savings. Join us as we explore this timely topic with Marcy Gutierrez, CASL, from 10:30 a.m. to noon May 8 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., Pleasanton. Activity fee is \$1.25 for residents, \$1.75 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

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 pleaseni@yahoo.com for details.

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

Spiritual

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.

Spring Tea Pleasanton Presbyterian

Women will host a Spring Tea featuring Wanda Bistrow, a Christian dramatist, writer and storyteller. She will present "Whither Thou Goest" and "The Bible Story of Ruth and Naomi," with daughter Linda, who has composed special music. The program also includes a tea luncheon and door prizes from 1 to 4 p.m. May 5 at the Pleasanton Presbyterian Church, 4300 Mirador Drive. Tickets are \$20. Call 846-7017 for reservations.

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.

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 Fredericks Elementary School, 7243 Tamarack Drive, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. the following days: April 25, and May 2, 9 and 16. Registration fee is \$50.00. Contact Carol at Mosescheer4you@aol.com or 216-6742. Visit <http://trivalleycheer.tripod.com>.

Support Groups

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

Choosing to Heal Discover the 10 choices you can make and the 10 lies you must reject to open the door for healing. This life-changing small group will be given practical, Biblical counsel on how to move forward in life. The small group meets for eight weeks starting April 25 at Valley Christian Center, 7500 Inspiration Drive in Dublin. Childcare is provided. Led by a trained counselor, the group is \$25 per person. Register online at www.dublinvcc.org.

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

East Bay Cancer Support Group The East Bay Cancer Support group is an independent, non-profit, non-sectarian organization serving cancer patients, caregivers and the bereaved at Faith Lutheran Church, 20080 Redwood Road, Castro Valley. All services are provided free of charge. For scheduled meeting times, please call (510) 889-8766 or visit www.ebcancersupport.org.

Grief Share Are you looking for community, understanding and support? If you have lost a spouse, child, family member or friend, you've probably found that there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. The grief support group meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. every Wednesday at Valley Christian Center, 7500 Inspiration Drive, Dublin. It is \$35.00, with scholarships available. Call 560-6202 or register at www.dublinvcc.org.

Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy The Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy support group's next meeting is at 10 a.m. April 24 at the Heritage Estates Retirement Community, 900 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. The group meets at

10 a.m. the fourth Tuesdays of each month. Peripheral Neuropathy generally presents itself as tingling, pain or numbness in the feet or hands. It is hard to diagnose and is common. All are invited to learn more about this disease. Call Lorene at 447-6158 or Ann at 443-4098.

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

Vision Support Group Individuals with low vision, and their loved ones, are invited to join us on the third Tuesday of each month from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Join us for low vision information, speakers, resources, discussions, and day trips. No reservations are required. Nominal fees may apply. Call 931-5369.

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 or (510) 635-3663 ext. 308. Visit 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 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.

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue Do you love animals? Become a volunteer or a Foster with Tri-Valley Animal Rescue. Orientations are held at East County Animal Shelter (ECAS) from 1 to 2:30 p.m. the second Saturday and fourth Sunday of each month. Registration is not required to attend the orientation. Call 803-7043 or visit www.tvr.org.

Volunteer Luncheon and Training The Museum on Main, 603 Main St., is hosting a volunteer luncheon and training session 11 a.m. May 9. RSVP by calling 462-2766.

TV30

"Let's Talk Sports" Las Positas College Basketball special with players and coaches and host George "Dr. B" Baljevich will air on Channel 30 April 17 through May 1 from Monday through Sunday at 2 and 6:30 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 11:30 a.m., 2, 4 and 6:30 p.m. Visit www.tv30.org.

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.

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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

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Pleasanton, 7936 Kemper Ct, Sat & Sun 8-11

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Pleasanton, 7977 Fairoaks Ct, April 21, 8am - 3pm
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American

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

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

Asian-Pacific

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

Barbecue

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

Brewpub/Alehouse

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

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

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Dining Out

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).

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Chinese Szechuan

3059 Hopyard Road #G, Pleasanton, 846-5251. Chinese Szechuan is Pleasanton's best-loved Chinese restaurant. Family owned and run since 1987, it has friendly service, delicious food and great prices, including lunch specials from only \$5.25.

Panda Mandarin Cuisine

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

Willow Tree Chinese Cuisine

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

Continental

Barone's

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

Fusion

Oasis Grille

780 Main St., Pleasanton, 417-8438. Visit downtown Pleasanton's exotic dining destination. Oasis features kababs, rice and vegetarian dishes, to name a few. Check out our updated wine and exotic cocktail menus. We also cater! Visit www.OasisGrille.com.

Italian

Fontina Ristorante

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

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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.

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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.



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Pizza

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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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