

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Vol. VIII, Number 21 • June 22, 2007

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It's all about Pleasanton



HERE COMES THE FAIR

Fireworks tonight, big parade
tomorrow on Main Street
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this week

Constructive criticism?

Planning chairwoman gets mixed reviews from council
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Safety first

Dry season means increased fire danger
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Strong hold

Commercial real estate investments to steady
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Tee time

Local ladies now flock to golf course
Section 2



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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Enjoy the new waterslides—but when?

If you jog along the trails at Shadow Cliffs or walk your dog there, as I do, you've no doubt seen two steel frame buildings under construction just west of the waterslides that seem as if they've been there forever. They're actually part of the \$10.7-million California Splash Water Park that was approved in a 3-2 vote of the City Council after more than a year of public meetings and debate. The new park, patterned after Knott's Soak City USA, was supposed to open in May 2005 based on a conditional use permit issued by city planners. Now it's 2008 according to the latest posting on its Web site, www.californiasplash.com. Conditional use permits generally have a one-year shelf life, although they are extended if the city officials believe there has been significant progress toward completing the project. But except for a few truckloads of sand dropped at the site and occasional work on the steel buildings, not much has happened. Still, officials say they're satisfied that Glenn Kierstead and his company, California Splash LLC, are making progress and, like the East Bay Regional Park District, which owns the 16-acre site, seem willing to give the developer more time to move forward.

Two problems have slowed, and sometimes stopped Kierstead in his ambitious goal to expand the old four-flume Rapids Waterslides that he opened at Shadow Cliffs in 1980. Just a year after gaining city approvals, he developed a staph infection that sidelined him in the hospital and his home in Vacaville. Relatives were even standing by to fly here from the East Coast as his condition worsened. After a long recovery, he faced another problem, which continues today. Investors he had lined up to fund the new water park took their money elsewhere, and he was left with more than \$1 million of his own funds invested in a project that once was estimated to cost \$7 million, and now is well over \$10 million. His investment

firm is seeking a \$5.4 million loan and a \$2-million loan from the Small Business Administration, and another \$4.7-million equity investment which should more than cover construction and start-up costs. A 35-page business plan posted on the Web touts high investor return with a project revenue stream of \$4.4-million this year and \$5.3-million in 2008. It's unlikely that with only two skeleton buildings standing that the projected returns for this year will be realized and, unless construction starts soon, that the water park Kierstead envisions will be ready to open next May.

This is no small neighborhood water park. As proposed, it will offer eight slides, a 24,000-square-foot wave pool, a lazy river water ride, children's wading pool, food service, and a corporate picnic area that would have its own water-related amenities. With the popular Manteca Waterslides turned into a housing development this year, Kierstead's new park would have only two competitors: Raging Waters in San Jose and Waterworld USA in Concord. Kierstead intends to market California Splash with an aggressive \$380,000 advertising and promotion budget to reach the 2.9 million population base within driving distance of Pleasanton. With no other water park within 25 miles of the city and projections of up to 200,000 visitors in a typical warm weather summer, about double what Rapids Waterslides now generates—and with the sales tax and extra business these families would bring to Pleasanton—it's no wonder city officials and the park district are giving Kierstead all the time he needs to find new investors and build California Splash. What's surprising is that with all of the protests against this project in 2003-04 and the current uproar over possibly more traffic from a proposed Home Depot that no one is complaining about the delay. Many I've talked to who joined in the once-stormy protest campaigns think California Splash has gone away. It hasn't. ■

About the Cover

Today is the start of the Alameda County Fair, which runs through July 8. Fairgoers will be bombarded with a host of activities, exhibits, contests and the largest concert schedule around. Cover by Manuel Valenzuela.

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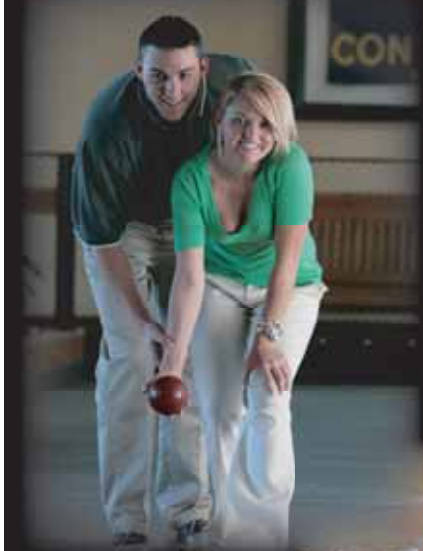
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Pleasanton Real Estate News



by
Gerarda
Stocking

IMPROVING YOUR HOME'S MARKETABILITY

One of the questions we're constantly asked is whether there are cost-effective ways of improving the value and marketability of a home—and indeed, there are. (This becomes particularly relevant to people who are buying a home with the intention of working on it for two years, then selling, pocketing the profits tax-free—thanks to our current tax code—and then buying the next and starting all over again.)

Our population is aging. Baby boomers are reaching retirement age. More people need homes better-suited to advancing years than ever. But they want homes that lend themselves to very active lifestyles.

Two considerations, therefore: Homes located close to exciting cultural activities—near colleges, for example—are particularly important, as are homes in good climates and with other attractive amenities nearby. Second, consider a 1-story house or a 2-story house with a downstairs master bedroom that doesn't require its occupants to make their way up and down stairways. And consider making that house easier for aging residents to live in (with widened doorways, hand-rails for the bathtub and shower, easily-accessed lighting, etc.) Then, when you want to sell, market the home to retirees. You're providing a service and it will probably pay you well. Questions? Just call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

Gerarda Stocking is the Owner/Broker of Stocking Realty.

Streetwise

Q: Plastic shopping bags were recently banned in San Francisco. Do you think that is a good policy for local cities to adopt?

Asked at the Farmers' Market



Regina Brinker
Teacher

I think it is a good idea to limit their use. It's unnecessary to use a bag for a tiny little item; it's wasteful. Anything we can do to reduce trash helps.

Sue Bond
CPA

I don't think banning it is necessary. People just need to become more conscientious of what they are doing and actually save things. I recycle my plastic bags and my kids laugh at me. I recycle paper bags. I come from the generation of people who recycle things because we are concerned about what the environment.



David Nester
Web site Developer

I am torn about it. I think it's reasonable if plastic bags are hurting the environment and I think it's reasonable to ask people to pay a small fee for a cloth bag. The reason I am torn is I wonder how effective this will be in really helping the environment or changing society's habits concerning waste.

Amanda Markowitz
Student

I think people should be more conscientious about their choices and retailers should give us a choice when purchasing as to whether we really need a bag or not. This may be a bit of an extreme reaction.



Andrew Sayles
Student

I don't know that a law like this will really change the way people think about waste and the environment. Even if stores charge 10 cents a bag on a \$100 shopping trip no one will care if they have to spend an extra \$1 for bags. It's about consumers becoming conscious of how their choices affect the world and legislation can't do that.

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



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Newsfront

News Digest

Helicopter buzz is Camp Parks training

Heard a helicopter lately? Camp Parks Military Reservation in Dublin is overseeing golden medic training, where trainees practice first aid and medical response that would translate into war zone situations. Pleasanton police received several inquiry calls, with some residents complaining of helicopter noise starting as early as 5:30 a.m. and lasting into the evening. A Camp Parks representative said the training, and helicopter activity, is scheduled to continue into next week.

Controlled burns continue in Livermore

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) plans to hold a controlled burn from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 25 at Sycamore Grove Park, off Wetmore Road in Livermore. The burn will take place in the 20 to 24 central acres of the 724 acre park. The park will reopen to the public June 26.

Hayashi appointed as chair

Assemblymember Mary Hayashi (D-Hayward) has been appointed by Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez as the chair of the Select Committee on Community Colleges. The select committee will focus on wide range of important issues including part-time faculty, the need to educate more health care providers and workforce development programs. Hayashi serves the 18th Assembly District, which includes Dublin, Hayward and San Leandro; all of the unincorporated areas of Ashland, Cherryland, and San Lorenzo; most of Castro Valley, Pleasanton and Sunol; as well as a portion of Oakland.

'Best Selling Humorist' in town

Larry Wildes, named "America's best-selling humorist" by the New York Times, is speaking at the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce luncheon June 26 at the Palm Event Center. He will discuss his popular program and book "When You're Up to Your Eyeballs in Alligators." Call 846-5858 or visit www.pleasanton.org for ticket information.

Corrections

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

Council avoids sanction call on commission chairwoman

McGovern calls mayor's concerns over Anne Fox a "witch hunt"

by Jeb Bing

The City Council decided against taking action against Planning Commission Chairwoman Anne Fox Tuesday, although Mayor Jennifer Hosterman said she is "uncomfortable" with Fox's work on the commission and questions whether she should stay there.

Fox angered some on the council and others in the community recently when she co-sponsored a ballot initiative effort that would block

the council's plan to annex Staples Ranch, a 124-acre vacant parcel that is the city's largest undeveloped commercial and residential site.

Pleasanton officials are banking on up to \$5 million in city tax revenue from their plans for a large auto mall on the site and 600-800 residential units and apartments for seniors. The site is at the southwest corner of the I-580-El Charro

(continued on page 6)



A gate blocks the driveway extension to Grey Eagle Court where an emergency vehicle access road is planned for the Oak Grove development, to the chagrin of Grey Eagle Estates residents who say they're concerned about liability.

Oak Grove project continued to June 27

Issue of liability with emergency access road through Grey Eagle Estates lingers

by Janet Pelletier

The long-awaited, highly anticipated Oak Grove project will be heard next Wednesday after it was continued by the Planning Commission June 13 due to lingering liability issues.

Much discussion at the meeting centered around where an emergency vehicle access road to the development will be located, and what liability existing homeowners may have.

Oak Grove proposes the construction of 51 custom homes in the southeast hills near Kottinger Ranch, Vintage Hills and Grey Eagle Estates, and the dedication of nearly 500 acres of open space for a citywide trail system.

(continued on page 7)

Are you ready for summer?

LFPD encourages fire safety after a dry rainfall year

by Emily Atwood

Thursday marked the official start of summer and the temperatures aren't the only thing expected to rise.

The Livermore-Pleasanton Police Department (LFPD) said last winter's low rainfall totals means this summer's fire danger is heightened. The department is being proactive in keeping down the blazes and encourages residents to also be vigilant this summer.

Dry brush and vegetation is a main concern of the fire department, said Chief Bill Cody. The department is in the middle of a weed abatement program, which notifies residents of overgrown vegetation that can be a fire risk. Any property owners near open spaces are encouraged to call the fire department if dry vegetation looks to be a potential danger.

"Homeowners can keep trees trimmed, eliminate ground fields like dry weeds and shrubs around their property so fire doesn't carry into the trees," Cody said. "Keep gutters clean and if they have wood shingles, make sure they don't have overhanging branches that could carry fire to the roof."

Fire Marshal Eric Carlson said a new state regulation requires homeowners to clear dry brush 100 feet from their property, instead of the previously required 30 feet.

(continued on page 7)

Delta pumping increased to 75% of normal level

Local water supplier began receiving deliveries over the weekend

by Janet Pelletier

Pumping at the Harvey O. Banks facility near Tracy has increased to 75 percent of normal levels this week, the state Department of Water Resources announced.

On Sunday, the volume of water pumped from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta was increased to 1,000 cubic feet per second (30 percent of normal) from 100 cfs (3 percent of normal).

The pumps were shut down on May 31 after the state department made the voluntary decision to do so in an effort to protect Delta smelt. The endangered fish were being killed by the pumps in increasing numbers. The pumps were turned back on June 10, but at really minimal levels, to allow the fish to migrate north as they do this time of year. It appears they have done so, and the number of fish being killed has decreased.

Zone 7 Water Agency, which supplies Pleasanton with 80 percent of its water supply, gets 80 percent of its water from the Delta region. The water agency has been asking residents to conserve water use during the situation. It has been drawing reserves from an underground basin and from Lake Del Valle to make

(continued on page 8)

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Council

(continued from page 5)

Road interchange and lies in unincorporated Alameda County.

Fox and Matt Morrison are listed as co-sponsors on the petition to gain at least 3,500 signatures from registered voters to put the initiative on the ballot. The initiative calls for blocking any commercial or residential development on Staples Ranch, restricting it to open space, trails or sports-related fields and facilities.

Hosterman called Fox and also asked her to meet her at City Hall

to discuss her role on the Planning Commission and especially as its chairwoman. Hosterman said her calls were not returned, although Fox finally agreed to meet with her last Monday. Hosterman called the 45-minute meeting "surprisingly disturbing," and told the Weekly that she wants Fox removed from the commission.

In Pleasanton, the mayor appoints members of city committees and commissions with the council's ratification, although there's no policy in place for sanctioning a sitting member of a commission or removing them.

Council members last Tuesday focused their remarks and attention on the lack of a policy for dealing with commissioners once they're appointed. Councilman Matt Sullivan said that in his years of public service, including service on the Planning Commission from 1998 until he was elected to the council in 2004, he had never heard a discussion by council members about taking action against one of its commissioners.

"I'm uncomfortable about the way we are handling this and I am concerned that we are crossing the line," he told Hosterman, who talked about her lack of confidence in Fox. "What we are doing is publicly airing problems that people are expressing about the chair of the Planning Commission, and this does not seem to be the way to do this."

Councilwoman Cindy McGovern agreed, calling Hosterman's move a "witch hunt that is libelous."

"I spoke with Anne (Fox) after her meeting with you," she told Hosterman, "and what you are saying is totally different. We have people who give enormous amounts of their time to serve on these commissions and to talk about them in this manner without giving them a chance to defend themselves is wrong."

But Hosterman persisted, saying

she has heard from many in the community who believe Fox has been acting improperly. Council members Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Jerry Thorne also said they have received emails about Fox's role as chairwoman.

Two speakers also commented on Fox, who was not at the council meeting.

Valarie Arkin criticized council members for referring to a letter Fox wrote to the Pleasanton Weekly as being improper because she listed herself as the Planning Commission chairwoman.

"I saw the letter Anne wrote and she did not use her commission title," Arkin said. "The Pleasanton Weekly added that. You should not talk on the public record if it's not true."

Valarie Arkin's husband Brian Arkin is past chairman of the Planning Commission and resigned to run, unsuccessfully, for the City Council last year. He is also backing the Staples Ranch open space initiative.

Kurt Kummer, a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission but emphasizing that he was speaking as a private citizen, urged the council to take action to "fix the problem on the Planning Commission."

"On the Parks and Recreation Commission, I know that the chairman meets with city staff to make sure all of the staff work is ready," Kummer said. "It's my understanding Anne Fox refuses to do that."

In the end, council members decided not to put the Anne Fox issue on a future council agenda for possible resolution, but to ask City Manager Nelson Fialho to talk to both Hosterman and Fox, and then report the outcome. The council also will await an ethics policy now being drafted by Fialho before considering a new policy that would provide guidance on handling problems with commissioners and city committee members. ■

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Looking for the Weekly?

We get hundreds of photos from readers who take the Weekly on their trips, but never one of a Weekly newsstand. At least not until two weeks ago when members of the Rotary Club of Pleasanton (Downtown) fished it out of the Arroyo del Valle near the Main Street Bridge. Rotarian Chuck Deckert said the newsstand had quite a bit of marine growth on it, showing it had been in the arroyo for quite some time.

Summer

(continued from page 5)

“That’s a lot more area around your home to deal with,” Carlson said. “In the fires we had a problem with last year in Southern California, it was a good example of people who did clear 100 feet from their home because the firefighters were able to save those homes.”

Cody said the department has recently been responding a few vegetation fires, primarily in the arroyos of Livermore and Pleasanton, where he said kids are out playing where they’re not supposed to be.

The department is working on a prescribed burn of 20 to 24 acres of Sycamore Park, off Wetmore Road in Livermore, next week. San Ramon will also hold controlled burns next week in an attempt to train for future fires. Last week, Dublin also participated in similar activity.

With the Fourth of July quickly approaching, both Cody and Carlson wanted to remind the public that all fireworks are illegal in both Pleasanton and Livermore. Police will be on patrol and responding to neighbors’ complaints, which Carlson said are how most instances



Joseph Zimm

Fire crews work to put out a controlled blaze last week as a part of training going on at Camp Parks Military Reservation in Dublin.

es are reported.

“We really want to avoid what happened two years ago in Livermore,” Carlson said. “A gentleman was killed when a professional grade pyrotechnic struck him in the face as he was trying to light it. That’s a huge disaster because he left behind a wife and two children.”

LFPD responds to many summertime fires started from used barbecue briquettes being dumped into trash cans. Carlson and Cody

said residents should keep space between houses and barbecues and soak the briquettes in water overnight before dumping them.

Carlson said there’s been an increase in the number of calls about the use of outdoor fire pits.

“They’re not illegal,” he said. “But they’re not designed to burn rubbish, which can catch a tree or a deck on fire. Follow the instructions, make sure the fire pits have a screen and use the right kind of stuff to burn.” ■

Oak Grove

(continued from page 5)

ing to the staff report.

The EVA road is planned to go through property to the south of Grey Eagle owned by Allen Roberts. Roberts has hired an attorney who asserts that the easement the city stakes claim to through his property does not exist.

Grey Eagle homeowners say they don’t want to be held accountable if people using the public trail system are injured or killed fleeing from a fire through their private road. In the staff report, it states a gate would be installed on the access road and signs would be posted informing people that only emergency response vehicles and personnel may use it, but residents say that isn’t enough.

Ed Janas told the Planning Commission of a horrific experience he had when living in Atlanta and said he didn’t want to see that same thing happen here. A moving truck was in front of his neighbor’s home when a large fire broke out. As the fire department responded, they moved the truck, but it jackknifed and blocked the roadway. One person was killed, two homes burned to the ground and many months later, a second person died of smoke inhalation. Janas said he and others belonging to a homeowners’ association on the private property were slapped with hundreds of dollars in liability claims.

Resident Bob Grove said he’s seen flames come within feet of his home at the end of Grey Eagle Court.

“We’ve lived here for 20 years. We’ve seen three fires,” he said. “It

really is inevitable that there will be a fire in the southeast hills.”

Grove said a gate and signs advising hikers and cyclists to use another route aren’t going to deter people from using Grey Eagle Court in the event of an emergency.

“If there’s a fire, you’re not going to see someone look at the signs, turn back around and run toward the fire,” Grove said.

The city has said it will indemnify (compensate for injury, loss or damages) the homeowners should anything happen on their property, but residents said the city would be shooting itself in the foot.

“Every resident in Pleasanton will then enjoy paying the liabilities,” Janas said.

Grove said if the city were to take on any claims filed, they would be fighting an uphill battle that could last in court for years.

Fire Chief Bill Cody said Wednesday that in the event of a fire, engines would respond first through an extension to the development on Hearst Drive in Kottinger Ranch.

“The initial responding units would respond up Hearst Drive, evaluate the situation and then if necessary, direct subsequent units either up that direction or an alternative (way) which would be the Grey Eagle EVA at this point,” Cody said.

While Grove said the access road, which is next to his home, is only 17.5 feet wide, short of the fire code-specified 20 feet. But Cody said that’s because “the two property owners (bordering the road) have encroached on that” and the city has a 20-foot-wide easement.

Aside from the No. 1 issue of liability, those speaking at the Planning Commission meeting said the custom homes, some of which

would be allowed to range between 12,000 and 18,000 square feet, were too large and would impact their views.

“The visualizations are flawed and misleading,” said Grey Eagle Court resident Russell Schmidt of computer images depicting what the homes would look like on the hillsides.

He said the imaging was done with smaller house size projections, which were about 6,700 square feet.

“This is a housing project—one that will put massive houses on some of the highest ridge tops,” added Lee Fulton. “Staff has been asked to produce bigger visuals but hasn’t.”

Attorney Marty Inderbitzen, who is representing project applicants the Lin family, told the commission that he was okay with a limitation by the city of between 10,000 and 12,000-square-foot houses.

Inderbitzen told commissioners that the planning for Oak Gove has been a long and methodical process with attention to detail. He said the custom homes won’t be given blanket approvals, but rather plans for each home will have to go back to the commission for approval.

“I can’t tell you we’re going to satisfy every concern of the residents,” he said. “We weren’t able to do that (when we built) Kottinger Ranch. It’s sort of the art of compromise.”

City Principal Planner Donna Decker disputed the claim that the computer visualizations were inaccurate, saying “we have very capable consultants” and said that the environmental impact report for the project “has integrity.”

The Planning Commission begins at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the City Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal Ave. ■

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Leading the 'Y' into the future

New executive director oversees first summer day camps

by Rebecca Guyon

To parents and students, it may seem like any other summer for the Tri-Valley YMCA as it plans to kick off its summer program of day camps here in Pleasanton next week, but the organization actually underwent a major change last year when Executive Director Kimiko Leong moved on to other opportunities and Kelly O'Lague Dulka was named to the position. Dulka assumed the role in August of last year, making this her first summer with the organization.

Although the YMCA offers activities year-round, such as the Y-Guides and Y-Princesses Parent/Child programs and after school day care, summer is a big time with eight week-long day camps happening from June 25 to Aug. 17.

Dulka has experience overseeing large programs through her past work as director of faith and ministry formation and adult programming at the Dioceses of Oakland.

While her work at the Y may seem like a jump from this position, Dulka actually has a background in clinical psychology where she mostly worked with children.

"I really wanted to get back to a focus on kids," Dulka said.

It's been a long, varied road for Dulka to get where she is now. She started out as a political science major at UC Berkeley with plans to go to law school until a serious car accident forced her to take time off of school when she was 20 years old. Her recovery took two years

and it was during that period that she became interested in social work.

"It was the first time I experienced social work first hand and it got me interested in the field," Dulka said. "When I returned to UC Berkeley for studies, I switched to the social welfare major and stayed on to do my grad work there."

After completing her graduate studies, Dulka worked as a clinical social worker at the Children's Health Counsel in Palo Alto. She left the field to have her three children, re-entering later as the Director of Children's Programs for her Catholic Church parish.

"My work as a clinical social worker has always been focused on helping people overcome obstacles to being their best selves through things like therapy for kids and parent education and counseling," Dulka said. "That relates to the focus of the Y mission, building strong kids, strong families. I wasn't very familiar with the YMCA before, but I was very intrigued by how it fits with my commitment to doing those things—helping to build strong kids and strong families."

Tri-Valley YMCA Board President John Green said Dulka's experience working with children as a clinical therapist was part of the organization's interest in hiring her for the position.

"I remember that Kelly was not looking for a new position, but a

friend told her about the YMCA opportunity knowing how much Kelly wanted to be in a role that works with youth," Green said. "We were glad that Kelly found us because we were very excited about her previous experience, energy and desire to be active in running youth programs. It was also a nice bonus that she has been a licensed clinical social worker with over 25 years of experience working with children and families."

Looking to the future, Dulka said she hopes to increase the YMCA's city and business partnerships, as well as facilitate a focus on health and wellness, which is being implemented at YMCA's across the country. The program will start this year through the summer day camps.

"Seeing the potential for collaboration is really exciting," Dulka said. "There are so many people who share the same mission who we aren't really targeting and we can bring together those who share aspects of the mission." ■

YMCA Day Camps

The YMCA week-long day camps begin June 25 with session 1 and ends on Aug. 17 with session 8. Camps include games, arts and crafts, off-site trips and more. Camps take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Mohr Elementary School multipurpose room. Extended care is offered beginning at 7 a.m. and until 6 p.m. for no additional charge. The camps cost \$199 per week.

Water

(continued from page 5)

up for the water loss.

Zone 7 spokeswoman Boni Brewer said the agency is thankful for residents who have adhered to the request to be water-wise, and said the incidence has been a good reminder to people that a reliable water supply is never a guarantee.

"We've averted what could have been a real problem," she said

Monday.

"This is a dry year and this is still a dynamic situation, so it's a good idea to continue to conserve water," she added.

Cutting back on watering lawns, washing cars, taking long showers and running tap while brushing teeth are some ways to do that. In addition to this winter's low rainfall totals, the summer is also the time of year that water demands are higher due to warmer temperatures. Last week, temperatures reached

103 degrees in Pleasanton.

Brewer said Zone 7 began receiving water deliveries over the weekend and said the agency is "in pretty good shape."

DWR said pumping has been increased this week to 2,500 cubic feet per second, which is about 75 percent of the normal pumping volume.

The agency and the Department of Fish and Game plan to continue to monitor the smelt on a regular basis. ■

Board trustees name new leaders

After six months of searching, the Board of Trustees of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District named Dr. Joel L. Kinnamon to the position of chancellor. Dr. Kinnamon replaces Dr. Susan Cota who is retiring after six years as chancellor and more than 30 years in higher education.

With the retirement of Las Positas College President Karen Halliday, the board chose Robert Kratochvil to be the interim president. He previously served as the school's vice president for business services.



Robert Kratochvil



Dr. Joel L. Kinnamon

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Business In Brief

Benjamin Moore opens kiosk at Stoneridge

Only the second in the nation, Benjamin Moore Paints has announced the arrival of an innovative Color Station at Stoneridge Mall. The station is a 120-square-foot kiosk that offers advice and information, guiding people in paint color choices. The kiosk, however, does not sell the paint, which can be found at Benjamin Moore retailers around town.

"With the opening of the Color Station, we are able to take the brand to where our customers already are, and try and act as a catalyst for their painting project," said Alistair Linton, retail director for Benjamin Moore.

Shoppers can browse color fan decks and oversized chips representing the company's most popular hues. Publications are also available including Color magazine and company idea books. Another tool is the Personal Color Viewer, software to help visualize how color looks in a room and color samples (2 ounce jars of paint) offered in 260 colors.

For more information, visit www.benjaminmoore.com.

Valley Community Bank announces stock dividend

Valley Community Bank, which specializes in customized banking

Take Us Along



Remembering James Dean

Erika Pearson shares memories and the Weekly while visiting the grave of James Dean in Fairmount, Ind. Every year on the anniversary of Dean's death, people gather in Fairmount for a four-day festival and memorial, which Pearson has attended for the past 11 years.

for entrepreneurs, small businesses and professionals, announced that its board of directors has declared a stock dividend of 5 percent to all shareholders of record as of May 29.

"The board of directors' decision to declare the dividend resulted from the bank's continued steady growth in volume and profitability during our nearly nine-year history," said Valley Community Bank president and CEO Rick Loupe.

The dividend will add approximately 85,044 new shares of the bank's stock to its existing 1.7 million outstanding shares. Fractional shares

will be cashed out based on the market value of the bank's common stock as determined at the close of the market on the OTC.BB on the x-dividend date of the dividend, payable on June 12.

Valley Community Bank, which is locally owned and operated, opened in 1998 in the historic Johnston Building at 465 Main St. A second location opened in 2000 at 1986 Second St. in Livermore. It also has other locations in San Ramon, San Jose and Santa Cruz.

The Pleasanton location can be reached at 243-9600. ■

Hayward runner wins Rotary's Spirit Run 10K

More than 1,000 turn out for Father's Day benefit on Main Street

by Jeb Bing

Ivan Medina, 20, of Hayward won the Rotary Club's 10K Spirit Run race last Sunday as a record high number of runners filled Main Street for 10K, 5K and Kids' Challenge events for those over 80 to younger than 8.

A camera clocking racers as they crossed the finish line showed Medina completing the 10K in 35.26 minutes.

Crowds filled the parking lot between the Domus store and Dean's café starting at 6 a.m., with registration desks jammed by 6:30. At 8 a.m., when the 10K started, onlookers stood 10-deep along Main Street as they cheered on the runners. Then they stayed for another 20 minutes to cheer again as their family and friends started the 5K, with many then following behind in brisk walks along the three-mile course through the fairgrounds and back onto Saint Mary Street.

Although billed as a chance for runners to test their skills, the determination of those joining in both the 10K and 5K races at the start showed in their faces. They wanted to win, not just test their

capabilities.

This year, the Downtown Rotary (officially the Rotary Club of Pleasanton, one of three in the city) has distributed more than \$20,000 in scholarships to graduates at Foothill, Amador Valley, Village and Horizon high schools. This is the highest amount in scholarships ever, and with Sunday's record-high turnout, Spirit Run Chairman Mike Hosterman believes the club is on target to raise more than the \$50,000 the race generated a year ago.

Sponsorships provide the funds to the Rotary Foundation, which, in turn, applies them to the scholarship program.

The Spirit Run had its beginnings during the city's 1994 Centennial celebration when Joanie and Jim Fields, with the help of Brad Hirst and others, started the Arroyo Creek Trails (ACT I) community race. More than 1,100 runners joined in, although that number fell to 800 the following year, when it was ACT II. Downtown Rotary took over the third year, providing the manpower needed to both promote and handle what its members saw as a spirited event, which also gave it its name. ■



Ivan Medina of Hayward won the race

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Opinion

Editorial

We like living here, and here's why

Pleasanton is a great place to live, work, go to school, raise a family and just have fun. Most of us know that but it's good to have an outsider confirm our views. John Fairbank and his opinion research and public policy analysis firm of Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin & Associates has just done that. In an extensive "Community Satisfaction Survey," done in conjunction with the city's new General Plan and consideration being given to developing the Bernal property, voters considered most likely to cast ballots in 2008 gave high marks to almost every aspect of life in Pleasanton. In fact, Fairbank, whose firm has conducted these kinds of surveys and focus groups across the country since 1991, said many of the favorable responses to questions about life in Pleasanton were "off the chart." In all the years he has been doing these types of surveys for cities, he's never seen higher numbers in terms of satisfaction.

The survey was conducted between March 15 and March 19 with 400 willingly participating in the 20-minute phone calls. All were randomly selected based on demographics, including different age groups, housing situations, income levels, and families and singles. All had to be registered voters to make the cut. Fairbank said a surprisingly small number begged off when told how long the survey would take; most agreed to answer the questions when they heard Fairbank's surveyors weren't selling anything and were asking about Pleasanton. The results also were measured against similar surveys conducted in 1995 and 2001.

At the top, respondents were nearly unanimous in their positive feeling about the quality of life in Pleasanton, with 70 percent saying it's excellent and another 26 percent feeling good about it. Three percent said it was fair and no one said it was poor. A total of 97 percent have extremely positive feelings about raising children here, an overwhelming majority (99 percent) feels safe in Pleasanton and the overall quality of life measures remain consistently strong, topping the earlier surveys. Quality of life ratings in Pleasanton also topped other cities, measuring 96 percent against Palo Alto's 93 percent, San Jose's 79 percent, and Oakland's 61 percent.

Not surprisingly, traffic, housing costs and growth were seen as the most serious concerns by those responding to the survey. Traffic concerns bother 25 percent of those questioned, high housing costs another 15 percent and 10 percent felt that the city's growth and development was "too much." Other cities had 40-50 percent of residents complaining about traffic, with many stating crime and gang activities are their other major concerns, problems that only a few cited in Pleasanton.

When the survey moved to views about the city government, fewer respondents were able to comment on all of the questions. When it came to performance, voters gave Pleasanton a job rating of 93 percent, compared to San Ramon, 87 percent, Fremont, 46 percent, and Oakland, 30 percent. Police, fire, parks and general services also received high marks, but 47 percent said the city should do more to synchronize traffic signals and 40 percent want the city government to do more to make housing more affordable for the average family and to protect the quality of life from too much growth.

Many cities conduct these kinds of surveys to use as reference points for major improvement projects. This survey shows the quality of life here is even better than in 1995 and 2001 despite having more homes, more crowded schools and traffic congestion. It's a feel-good report we're pleased to share with you.

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

Mayor defies City Council

Dear Editor,

Jennifer Hosterman has again abused her position as Pleasanton mayor to pursue her extreme left wing agenda.

At the forthcoming U.S. Council of Mayors meeting she is one of the sponsors of a resolution banning nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. She did not notify the City Council or the people of Pleasanton in advance. She has not shown us the resolution.

This action is beyond her scope as mayor. Last year she wrote similar resolutions for the same meeting and failed to inform the city of her intentions. Much City Council discussion followed her actions. The City Council concluded that any public official traveling on city funds and representing the city had an obligation to inform the City Council of positions he or she might take on various issues. The mayor was defiant and now shows her contempt for the City Council with these latest actions.

Hosterman should apologize to the council and citizens, remove all reference to Pleasanton on the resolution and pay for her trip to speak as an individual. I presume that the city's legal counsel, Mr. Roush, will ensure that she will not charge taxpayers.

Ted Tully, Pleasanton

Who cares about Paris Hilton?

Dear Editor,

For the first time since you started publishing, I am thoroughly disappointed in one of your regular columns. With so many other issues, both local and worldwide, pleasant or otherwise, you waste your time and that of your readers on Paris Hilton ("Do you think Paris Hilton should go to jail?" Streetwise, May 25). Who cares?

*Kay Ivins
Pleasanton*

Home Depot superstore not needed

Dear Editor,

The "pause to look again" at the Home Depot project is most justified. What the new Home Depot offers is already available in downtown Pleasanton.

There is a hardware store at Santa Rita Road and Valley Avenue and another on Sunol Boulevard which has a huge lumber section. There are already two drug stores downtown, one at Santa Rita Road and Valley Avenue and one at First and Ray streets, so we probably don't need another Longs Drugs about 1.9 miles from their store on Rosewood Drive. Home Depot has a garden shop but it is far below the garden shop on Vineyard Avenue at Montevino Drive, just a little less than a mile from Stanley Boulevard. Oh, we really need another Starbucks in town. There are some drivers who

need to exercise their right to drive with a cup in one hand and a cell phone in the other while they keep an eye out for a good place to throw the empty cup out the window.

All things considered, Pleasanton does not need another superstore, especially the kind where you have to take a taxi to get from one end of the store to the other.

*Leo Walker
Pleasanton*

Initiative ensures smart land planning

Dear Editor,

As a resident of Pleasanton, I strongly believe the "Open Space, Park Lands, and Green Belt Initiative" is a very good approach in giving the Pleasanton residents a tool to voice their concern and propose what the public land in Pleasanton can be used for. Livermore had done an outstanding job in balancing between development/growth and open space such as allowing vineyards.

Due to the fact that this is public land and we have very limited land left in Pleasanton, I believe we should be careful in how to utilize the remaining land. It should not be decided behind closed doors by a few people as it affects the whole community. Hence, this is a perfect way of going about it.

In the area of Staples Ranch, there is significant housing (mid density) and I would think Pleasanton and the residents of the area close to

Staples Ranch can benefit for having some sort of park and/or sport park (open space in general).

Furthermore, a green area will enhance the city on the east side as well as having a buffer zone between the current houses and the airport as it is suggested by the airport.

*M. Mahini
Pleasanton*

Dublin, Livermore could grab Staples Ranch

Dear Editor,

I want to address this stupid initiative that is about to be circulated in Pleasanton regarding the "Staples Ranch" property. It has been put up as an initiative by some folks who were unhappy with the City Council's decision on the future completion of Stoneridge Drive into Livermore. When all logic and reasonable persuasion fails, we must now bring out the "red-legged frog" or some such preservation emotional card instead of dealing with reality.

Let's deal with the facts—this acreage will be developed by Pleasanton, Dublin or Livermore. It has the potential of \$5 million in tax revenue to the city who owns it. It is currently under the sphere of influence of Pleasanton but if these dimwits have their way, it will stall the process long enough for Dublin or Livermore to grab the property from Alameda County. All of this because some folks who knew that it would

eventually happen and do not want all of us to benefit from the extension of Stoneridge Drive to relieve traffic congestion.

Now, I am not a political wizard but when the chairperson of the Planning Commission writes letters to the editor in some meager attempt to support her cause, I think she should be fired by the mayor. I don't know if this is illegal but I know that it is improper. As a servant on a city commission, especially the chair, to try to persuade by title instead of a good argument, that stinks. There is no good argument to her cause.

*David Walden
Pleasanton*

Immigration spelling errors

Dear Editor,

I have heard a lot of talk about the inadequacies we have in our education systems, but never realized how deeply it has impacted the press. This is most glaring when you read what is being written about the "McCain-Kennedy" immigration bill. It is obvious that the press has lost the ability to spell the English language. They keep spelling "capitulation" as "Compromise." In addition, this bill, when coupled with the McCain-Feingold campaign finance law, is just more evidence why the senator from Arizona is unfit to serve as our president.

*Herbert H. Marshall
Pleasanton*

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HERE COME

Fireworks tonight, big parade



by Jeb Bing

The Alameda County Fair kicks off today for a 17-day run of fun and excitement for all ages, special tributes for the men and women in uniform, and fantastic entertainers in the biggest concert series ever.

Thousands are expected to attend opening day ceremonies and the spectacular 20-minute fireworks show tonight, followed by the largest fair parade ever tomorrow morning on Main Street. The fireworks display starts at approximately 9:15 p.m. with the best viewing areas in and around the racetrack grandstand. The event, staged by Boom Boom Productions, is being sponsored by Fremont Bank.

The traditional opening day parade on Main Street will begin at 11 a.m. tomorrow, winding through historic Main Street and ending at the fairgrounds. This year's Grand Marshal is KTVU-Channel 2 anchor Julie Haener.

With more than 90 parade entries, over-sized balloons, floats and 10 bands, the 2007 parade promises to be the largest ever to open the county fair.

With the theme "Sounds of Summer," this year's 95th anniversary fair is placing special emphasis on entertainment, contests, livestock shows and carnival rides for all age groups—from toddlers to 90-year-olds.

These include the fourth annual rib cook-off tomorrow at the Cooking Academy, the grandparents and grandchild Rice Krispy contest and a text messaging contest that ends June 25.

Featured today through Sunday, July 8, when the fair closes, are a wide variety of music and comedy performances in the fairgrounds' 3,000-seat amphitheater. Artists will perform two shows nightly, at 6 and 8 p.m. All concerts are free with the general admission tickets.

The Bay City Rollers lead off tonight, followed by country trio SheDaisy tomorrow. Popular R&B group Boyz II Men take the stage Sunday, celebrating 15 years together since the release of their debut album "CooleyHighHarmony." This year, the group is promoting songs for a new album they plan to release later this year.

The Imagination Movers round out a full day of activities planned

for Kid's Day June 26, with songs and other topics just for kids. The home on MTV, encourage kids to "and have fun," said April Mitchell, grounds.

Collin Raye is Nashville's "go-to" guy who goes out of his way to deal with so much music. That's why the fair has scheduled Ree to open up for Raye on July 5.

Senior Day on June 27 will showcase Noone. Part of the British invasion in threatening and clean-cut 'boys next door' listen to and more accessible than other.

This Sunday, Chef Martin Yan from the Cooking Academy stage, will share some summer fare as well as autograph his name. Starting today, the fair will also have

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marketing manager for the fair-

ny for songs with meat on the bones,
ocial truth and gripping reality in his
ed satirical music comedians Will &

se Herman's Hermits, starring Peter
music, their trademark simple, non-
oor' image has made them easier to
er British invasion bands.

"Yan Can Cook", who will be on the
ome of his recipes for light Chinese
new books at 2 and 5 p.m.

or the contributions of the men and

women who serve in the Armed Forces with a military appreciation week-
end. All those with valid military IDs will receive free admission and a
second free ticket for a guest.

Besides special admission promotions for the military, Kids Free Fridays
for 12 and under also starts today, with kids eligible for free gate admission
on June 29 and July 6. Seniors Free Wednesdays for those 62 and over start
next Wednesday and are also available on July 4. And \$2 Tuesdays are June
26 and July 3, with gate admission for everyone set at just \$2.

Of course, it's not all parades and entertainment. This year's fair has
hundreds of exhibits, contests and fair rides. There's even a Kids Tractor
Pull where the young ones can pull their way to the end with a sliding
weight dragging them down. The fourth annual apple pie contest is also
targeted toward young people who are asked to bring their heritage
homemade recipe to the judging table to see if they have grandma's
talents.

In the fairgrounds' assortment of large, air-conditioned exhibition halls,
fairgoers can find arts and crafts, knitting and crochet, scrapbooking, home-

made jams, candy and cookies, and plenty of flower arrangements.

For many, the most exciting part of the fair is America's oldest race-
track, which will feature horseracing from next Wednesday, June 27,
through closing day on Sunday, July 8. That will total 11 days of thunder-
ing hooves as jockeys battle for positions coming around the final turn.
Post time is 12:15 p.m. daily, although there will be no horseracing on
Tuesday, July 5.

Box seats are sold out, but there's a new feature this year: a trackside
terrace that includes a full buffet, reserved seating and an excellent view of
the racetrack with TV monitors near each table, and all for \$30, including
fair admission. Call 426-7511 for reservations.

Adult fair admission is \$9 at the gate, \$7 for seniors 62 and over, and \$6
for children. A Family Pak that includes two adults, two children, a parking
pass and 30 ride coupons is \$39. Unlimited carnival wristbands will be sold
for \$25 and parking costs \$8.

For more information on fair events, schedules and prices, visit [www.
AlamedaCountyFair.com](http://www.AlamedaCountyFair.com) or call 426-7600. ■



Tablas Creek Winemakers Dinner Tuesday, June 26th

Wine & Cheese Reception at 6:30 pm

Dinner at 7:00 pm

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Community Pulse



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

Wednesday, June 27, 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) the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Oak Grove development; (2) 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; 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.

- **PDR 563, Stanley Center, LLC**

Application for design review approval to construct an approximately 31,180 square foot retail building, an approximately 3,940 square foot retail pad, parking stalls, and landscaping at the property located at 3595 Utah Street.

- **PUD 65, Nick Kavayiotidis, Petra Realty Investors, Inc.**

Application for Planned Unit Development rezoning and development plan to construct a 21,795 square foot two-story office building at 5980 and 5998 Sunol Boulevard. The 5998 Sunol Boulevard property would be rezoned from the O (Office) District to the PUD-O (Planned Unit Development – Office) District.

Library Commission

Thursday, June 28, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Library Community Room, 400 Old Bernal Ave

- Appointment of Teen Liaison
- Discussion regarding night at the Library event
- Discussion regarding Commissioner Goals

Trails Ad Hoc Committee

Monday, June 25, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Conference Room, 200 Old Bernal Ave

- Overview of Bike Lanes
- Update on Committee Member Recruitment
- Update on Zone 7 Water Agency Stream Management Implementation Plan (SMIP)

Human Services Commission

- The Human Services Commission meeting for July has been cancelled due to the Independence Day holiday. The next Human Services Commission meeting is scheduled for August 8th.

Notice of Vacancies on Trails Ad Hoc Committee

The Parks and Recreation Commission is seeking two (2) volunteers to serve as members of the Trails Ad Hoc Committee. The Committee advises the Commission on trails and trail-related issues, and generally meets on the fourth Monday of each month, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Conference Room, 200 Old Bernal Avenue (adjacent to the City Council Chamber).

These positions will be vacant due to term expirations. Appointments are three-year terms (October 2007 to September 2010). The Commission is seeking the following: 1 person to represent non-motorized transportation interests; 1 person to represent the community-at-large.

For additional information about the Committee's purpose, or to see its list of priority projects, visit our website at <http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/government/representatives/city-commissions.html#tah>.

If you are interested in serving, please complete an "Application to Serve on a Commission, Committee or Board" which can be obtained by visiting the City Clerk's Office, 123 Main Street, or by visiting our website at <http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/pdf/newcommapp.pdf>.

Please indicate the position for which you are applying (non-motorized transportation or community-at-large) on the application and submit to the City of Pleasanton, City Clerk's Office, 123 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566. The deadline to submit applications is Friday, July 13, 2007 at 4:30 p.m. Interviews, if required, will be scheduled after all applications have been reviewed.

If you have any questions regarding the application process or you need additional assistance, please contact Fan Ventura, Management Analyst at (925) 931-5348 or by e-mail at fventura@ci.pleasanton.ca.us

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

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

Police Bulletin

GPS, electronics eyed in car burglaries

With a rash of burglaries from unlocked cars, Pleasanton police encourage drivers to lock doors and remove valuables each time the car is parked. Thirteen cars were burglarized between May 20 and June 18, with items stolen including GPS devices, other electronics and personal items. Six

of those cars were unlocked, while three windows were smashed and one door was pried in order to gain entry into the locked vehicles.

"It does not take more than a few minutes to smash a car window and grab your hard-earned valuables," Officer Penelope Tamm wrote in an email to neighborhood watch groups. "While we live and work in a lovely city, we just can not leave our cars unlocked anymore."

Police Report

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

June 9

- DUI:
 - 1:36 a.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Pickens Lane
 - 2:08 a.m. in the 4500 block of Denker Drive
- Vandalism:
 - 8:28 a.m. in the 4100 block of Garibaldi Place

June 10

- Battery:
 - 1:08 a.m. at the intersection of Belleza Lane and W. Las Positas Boulevard; against a peace and police officer
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 12:58 a.m. in the 5800 block of Parkside Drive; marijuana possession
 - 1:08 a.m. at the intersection of Belleza Lane and W. Las Positas Boulevard; public drunkenness
 - 3:00 a.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and Main Street
- Found property:
 - 9:07 p.m. at the intersection of Via Quito and Calle Reynoso
- Mental health danger:
 - 3:31 a.m. in the 5500 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard

June 11

- Theft:
 - 10:52 a.m. in the 4400 block of Mohr Avenue; petty theft

- 11:09 a.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; petty theft
- 1:43 p.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; stolen vehicle
- 4:30 p.m. in the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft
- Vandalism:
 - 3:16 p.m. in the 700 block of Bonita Avenue; worth \$400 or more
- Recovered vehicle:
 - 4:05 p.m. at the intersection of Cornerstone Court and Ironwood Drive
- Drug
 - 2:15 a.m. at the intersection of Northway and Crestline roads; driving under the influence
- Truant:
 - 1:04 p.m. in the 4400 block of Black Avenue

June 12

- Theft:
 - 7:45 a.m. in the 6100 block of Stoneridge Drive; petty theft
 - 3:28 p.m. in the 1700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
 - 4:29 p.m. in the 4700 block of Hopyard Road; grand theft
 - 10:38 p.m. in the 11500 block of Dublin Canyon Road; forgery
- Vandalism:
 - 8:19 a.m. in the 2800 block of Tudor Court; worth less than \$400

June 13

- Theft:
 - 11:14 a.m. in the 900 block of Riesling Drive; grand theft

- 1:04 p.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive; petty theft
- 1:47 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 10:17 p.m. in the 8000 block of Arroyo Drive; grand theft

- Vandalism:

- 12:18 a.m. in the 5400 block of Sunol Boulevard; worth less than \$400

- Burglary:

- 6:50 p.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road

- Mental health danger:

- 7:04 a.m. in the 1900 block of Greenwood Road
- 2:58 p.m. in the 5500 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard

June 14

- Theft:
 - 7:34 a.m. in the 3700 block of Bairn Court; stolen vehicle
 - 9:24 a.m. in the 5000 block of Hopyard Road; grand theft
 - 12:28 p.m. in the 3900 block of Vineyard Avenue; grand theft
 - 12:43 p.m. in the 6200 block of Robin Court; defrauding, worth over \$400
- Alcohol violations:
 - 2:07 p.m. in the 4300 block of Del Valle Parkway; driving with an open container
 - 10:43 p.m. in the 5700 block of Johnson Drive

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Calendar

Author Visits

Author Lunch with Amanda Ward Amanda Eyre Ward is the featured author at the Read It and Eat Luncheon Series at noon June 25 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Her newest book is "Forgive Me." The cost is \$30.00 for book and lunch, or \$15.00 for lunch only. Reservations are required; call 846-8826.

Kid's Detective Author, Dave Keane Dave Keane, author and illustrator of the Joe Sherlock Detective Series for kids will visit Towne Center Books, 555 Main St., at 12:30 p.m. June 23. This is especially appropriate for grades 2 to 5. He'll share stories about making his books and answer questions. No reservations are needed. free

Book Clubs

Detective Club Summer Reading Program Join the Detective Club Summer Reading Program at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Clues and activities happen in the store weekly. Induction begins June 15. Read each week and come in and share what you've been reading. For ages 5 to 95. A party for participants will be held at 2 p.m. Aug. 5.

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

Civic Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

Weekend Preview



Opera in the Vineyard

Livermore Valley Opera Guild presents its annual fundraiser "Opera in the Vineyard" from 5 to 8 p.m. June 24 at Cedar Mountain Winery, 7000 Tesla Road, Livermore. Singers Jonathan Smucker and Rebecca Garcia will be featured. Patrons should bring a blanket or chair for seating. Lawn and table seating are also available on a first-come basis. Admission is \$30 per person and includes a glass of wine. Snacks and desserts will be sold. Call 960-9210 or visit www.livermorevalleyopera.com for tickets and more information.

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.

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.

Women's Stock Investment Club Women's Stock Investment club meets at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month in Livermore. The club follows Better Investing principles for studying stocks and investing for the long term while having fun. For details, call Eleanor at 846-6911 or Barbara at 484-1319.

Classes

Construction Financing Seminar A seminar on construction financing will be presented from 6:30 to 8 p.m. July 18 at Las Positas College, 3033 Collier Canyon Road, Livermore. The class will cover financing methods for new build, remodel or reconstruction. The cost is \$19. To register visit www.laspositascollege.edu/communityed. Call 449-1275.

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,

Concerts

Celebrate America Dessert Theater Production Tickets are available for Valley Christian Center's annual Celebrate America Dessert Theater Production at Valley Christian Center, 7500 Inspiration Drive. Join us at one of four performances June 24 to June 27 as we salute American liberty. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the performance begins at 7:15 p.m. Tickets are \$10. Call Sandy at 560-6201 or visit www.dublinvcc.org.



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Events

7th Annual Downtown Summer Wine Stroll The Wine Stroll will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. July 19. Over 25 members of the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association will showcase their wines at up to 35 locations. Only 1,000 tickets are available for \$25 per person and will be sold in advance June 18 to July 18. Call 484-2199 or visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

Art Collecting 101 Learn to display and light art and collectibles with style and flair from 3 to 4 p.m. June 30 at Worthington Gallery West, 739 Main St. RSVP by calling 485-1183 or emailing wgallerywest@sbcglobal.net.

Local Fourth of July Celebration Pleasanton volunteers plan the ninth local Fourth of July celebration from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at Lion's Wayside Park, at the corner of First and Neal streets. This year's theme is "Jefferson: A vision for America." Guests are encouraged to bring a picnic blankets or lawn chairs, and wear red, white and blue. The Lion's Club will offer "A Dog & a Drink for a Dollar" and will also give away hand-held American flags to the first 500 guests.

March in the Fair Parade Join the Towne Center Books Detective Club and march in the Fair Parade at 9:30 a.m. June 23. Come dressed as your favorite detective. Reservations and parental permission required. Sat. Call 846-8826 or email infor@townecenterbooks.com.

Pleasanton Chamber Luncheon Larry Wilde, declared "America's best-selling humorist" by the New York Times, is coming to Pleasanton from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. June 26 with his motivational program. Don't miss this chance to improve your family life and your work life. Bring your friends and co-worker to this unique event at the Palm Event Center, 1184 Vineyard Ave. Learn to improve your life with humor. Tickets are \$30. Call 846-5858 or visit www.pleasanton.org.

Pleasanton VIP Club Annual Barbecue The Pleasanton VIP Club is hosting its annual barbecue from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. June 25 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The event includes a barbecue chicken lunch, live music and dancing. Tickets are \$6 and are available for purchase at the senior center. Call 931-5365.

The Summer's Premier Networking Event Join 200 to 300 successful business professionals at 5:30 p.m. June 27 at the Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville, for the summer's premier networking event which features a trade show, mixer and auction. Tickets are \$10 online if reserved by June 25, or \$20 at the door. Call 689-5726 or visit www.thelearning-cafe.com/html/netevent.html.

Wiggle Waggle Dog Wash Valley Humane Society's Wiggle Waggle Dog Wash will be held from 12 to 4 p.m. June 30. The public is invited to bring their dogs for a wash. Proceeds benefit the Society. Call 426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumane.org.

Exhibits

Art Under The Oaks More than 35 Bay Area artists will display paintings, prints, pottery, jewelry, baskets, woodwork, fiber arts, photography and porcelain painting at the 21st Annual Art Under the Oaks from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 14 and 15 at beautiful Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane, Livermore. Call Gail at 846-8960 or visit www.livermoreartassociation.com.

Mackenzie Thorpe Exhibit & Book Signing Meet Mackenzie Thorpe, one of England's most original and interesting artists, from 1 to 3 p.m. June 24 at Studio 7 Fine Arts, 400 Main St. Thorpe's work expresses the complexity of human emotions with poignancy, humor and optimism. Call 846-4322 or visit www.studio7finearts.com.

Pieces of Time The Museum on Main Street will be hosting the quilting class from The Berry Patch in a demonstration to visitors to the museum from 1:15 to 3:45 p.m. July 8. This will be a process of paper piecing in preparation for a quilt. The event will take place in the History Room, 603 Main St. Visitors will also be able to hand tie a quilt. There is a donation of \$2.00 for individuals and \$5.00 for family. Call 462-2766 or email valleymuseum@sbcglobal.net.

Film

Teen Film at the Library Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., presents "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest" at 2 p.m. June 22. Teens 13 to 19 are invited for the beginning of the Teen Summer Program. Join us for refreshments, prizes and the movie. Call 931-3404 or visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/library.

The Root of All Evil Richard Dawkins, famed evolutionary biologist/anthropologist, wrote and presents this film divided into two parts, "The God Delusion" and "The Virus of Faith," which explore the double edged sword of religion and it's resurgence in today's societies. The showings will begin at 7 p.m. June 23 at IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. A \$3 donation is suggested. Call 462-3459.

Fundraisers

Elegant Evening of Fashion, Wine & Music The Tri-Valley community will converge at an event June 29 to raise funds for Valley Children's Museum. The event includes a silent auction, food and drink from the area's top restaurants and wineries, entertainment, and the official unveiling of Valley Children's Museum's new museum-on-wheels. Tickets range from \$50 to \$125. To order tickets, go to www.valleychildrensmuseum.org or mail a check made out to Valley Children's Museum to P.O. Box 305, San Ramon, CA 94583, attn: Elegant Evening.

Golf Tournament The School of Imagination and Happy Talkers presents the first Golf Tournament Fundraiser June 25 at Poppy Ridge Golf Course in Livermore. It costs \$175 per player and \$30 for non-golfers attending the dinner and auction. For more information visit www.schoolorimagination.org/events or call (877) KIDS-TLC.

Opera in the Vineyard Livermore Valley Opera Guild presents its annual fundraiser in a vineyard setting from 5 to 8 p.m. June 24 at Cedar Mountain Winery, 7000 Tesla Road. Bring a picnic and enjoy an art fresco performance. Lawn and table seating is available on a first-come basis. Admission, \$30 per person, includes a glass of wine; snacks and desserts will be sold. Call 960-9210 or visit www.livermorevalleyopera.com.

Health

Free Summer Immunization Clinics Axis Community Health, 4361 Railroad Avenue, offers free immunization clinics for children on July 7, August 4 and September 8. They are open to all Tri-Valley families who have a low income, are uninsured or on Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Managed Care. Parents should bring child's immunization records and income and insurance information. Some immunizations require fees. Call 462-1755.

Kundalini Yoga and Meditation with ilahi Yoga Priestesses of the Bay Area present an eight-week introductory series of Kundalini Yoga and Meditation with ilahi at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays from May 17 through July 4 at World School, 699 Peters Ave. The course is free for World School Staff

and students otherwise \$12 drop-in fee or \$30.00 for the series. Call 461-2533 or visit www.worldschoolmassage.com.

Meditation and Stress Reduction Do you want to learn and put into practice relaxation techniques and stress reduction methods proven to be successful in hundreds of cultures for millions of people? Las Positas College is offering a class for meditation and stress reduction from 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays from June 30 to July 7. The cost is \$39. Call 424-1467 or register online: www.laspositascollege.edu/communityed.

Kids & Teens

5th Annual Teen Citizens' Police Academy The Pleasanton Police Department will again host the teen academy from 3 to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday from July 10 to 31 at 4833 Bernal Ave. The academy is open to residents of Pleasanton, ages 14-18. The students will learn about many police functions. For an application call 931-5100.

Kid Power Training The Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., needs students entering sixth to ninth grades next school year to become summer Kid Power volunteers. KP volunteers assist children of all ages to register for and play the library's summer reading game. Call Children's Services at 931-3400 ext. 8 or visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library/programs-events-child.html.

Performing Shakespeare Summer Academy An intimate workshop for high school students, the Performing Shakespeare Summer Academy runs from noon to 3 p.m. July 2 to July 13 12:00 in Livermore, with performances the weekend of July 14. Tuition is \$275. Meet the director and select your scene/monologue from noon to 3 p.m. June 19. Visit www.TriValleyYPA.org. Extended care OK.

Poky Little Puppy Event Join Poky Little Puppy and walk to Three Dog Bakery to ice a cupcake for your dog, then head to Towne Center Books for a story and human treat. All ages are welcome, dogs must be on a leash and with an adult. Meet at Veteran's Park 550 Peters Ave at 2:00 p.m. June 22.

Storytime with author Oliver Chin Author Oliver Chin will celebrate railroads and creativity with his new book "Timmy and Tammy's Train of Thought" at 11 a.m. June 27 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Especially for ages 3-6, plus siblings. A free event.

The Hipwaders at Livermore's Family First Night Award-winning band, The Hipwaders, will be performing "Hip Music for Kids" at Family First Night from 5 to 8 p.m. July 5 at Carnegie Park at 3rd & J streets, Livermore. Visit www.hipwaders.net for music and videos.

Lectures/ Workshops

Free Photo Workshop From noon to 1 p.m. June 28 Melanie from Mel's Makin' Memories! comes to the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, 777 Peters Ave., to teach a free seminar open to the public on how to preserve old photographs, slides, albums, home videos and more. Anyone interested in preserving the past for future generations should come. Call Dawn at 846-8585 or visit www.pleasanton.org.

Obtain Free Specialized Telephones Individuals with hearing, vision, cognitive, mobility or speech challenges may qualify for specialized telephone equipment through CTAP (California Telephone Access Program). Join us to preview the available phones and discover if you qualify from 10 to 11:30 a.m. June 26 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The cost is \$1.25 for resi-

dents or \$1.75 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

Live Music

JB Smooth Sounds Band The Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., presents an afternoon of popular songs, Broadway themes and music from movies at 2 p.m. June 24. Come and enjoy this free hour of ballads and dance tunes with the JB Smooth Sounds Band. Call 931-3405 or visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/library.

Muir Station Jazz Band The Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., presents live jazz music by The Muir Station Jazz Band at 2 p.m. July 8. This band brings a variety of musical pleasures from early Dixieland to swing and easy listening for the enjoyment of all. Call 931-3405 or visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/library.

Miscellaneous

Free The Cat Campaign For a limited time, Tri-Valley Animal Rescue will offer no-fee adoptions of all adult cats. Strict adoption criteria will still apply. Adoptions are held at Pleasanton Farmers Market (9:30 to 1 p.m. Saturdays), Dublin Pet Food Express (2 to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays) and Dublin PetSmart (weekdays during regular business hours and noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays). Call 803-7043 or visit www.tvar.org.

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

On Stage

Comedian Mark Lundholm Sober comedian Mark Lundholm details his battles with addiction in a clever manner that is sometimes shocking, often heartwarming and unceasingly honest. This is a fast-paced show that never fails to leave audiences thinking differently. He'll perform at 7 p.m. June 24 at El Campanil, 602 W 2nd St., Antioch. Tickets are from \$22 to \$50. Call (510) 589-3432 or visit cfralumni.org.

Comedy of Errors The Livermore Shakespeare Festival presents "Comedy of Errors" July 12 to August 4 at the Retzlaff Estate Winery, 1356 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore. The Comedy of Errors is a robust comedy with two pairs of mix-matched twins, entwining desire with hi-jinks and past loss with present laughter. Tickets go on sale May 15; call (800) 838-3006. Visit www.LivermoreShakes.org.

Free Shakespeare in the Park "A Midsummer's Night Dream," directed

by Kenneth Kelleher, provides an excellent introduction to Shakespeare for the first time theatergoers and continues to enthrall seasoned audiences. Performances are every Saturday and Sunday at 7:30 p.m. June 30 to July 15, with a July 6 (instead of July 7) showing at Amador Valley Community Park, the corner of Black Avenue and Santa Rita Road.

Seniors

Alameda County Fair Enjoy the "Sounds of Summer" at the Alameda County Fair from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. June 27. Travel via Paratransit to and from the Senior Center in an air-conditioned bus. No need to worry about parking! The cost is \$7 for residents or \$8 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

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

Computer Tutoring One-on-one computer tutoring is available every day at the Pleasanton Senior Center. The tutor works with you on topics where you need help. No formal program to follow, just help where you need it. Internet, Office applications, picture editing, etc. Call 931-5365 to set up an appointment. The cost is \$1.25 for residents.

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 pleasanton@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

Open Christian 12 Step Discover how much comfort there is in the journey of recovery walking with the Good Shepherd every STEP of the way! This group meets at 5 p.m. every Thursday at 40 California Ave., Ste. B. Call 426-0501 or visit www.rquest.org.

Peace Time Meditate upon peace from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. the second Saturday of every month beginning June 9 at Downtown Yoga, 220-B Division St. The time of silent meditation will allow you to meditate upon your own peace of mind, peace in

your home or peace in your world. All are welcome. Call 819-9983 or visit www.pleasantonyoga.com.

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.

Vacation Bible School Vacation Bible School, themed "Avalanche Ranch," is a wild ride through God's word. It runs from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. June 25 through 29 at Faith Chapel Assembly of God, 6656 Alisal St. Pre-registration required. Faith Chapel's Sunday school is for all ages at 9:30 a.m.; worship at 10:30; children's church (ages 3-12) begins at 11:15. Call 846-8650.

Women's Christian 12 Step Discover how much comfort there is in the journey of recovery walking with the Good Shepherd every STEP of the way! This group meets at noon every Friday and Saturday at Shepherd's Gate, 1660 Portola Ave., Livermore. Call 443-4283.

Sports

15th Annual Summer Baseball Camp At the 15 annual summer baseball camp, Foothill High School varsity baseball coach, Angelo Scavone, and his staff will instruct on the fundamentals of offense, defense and pitching. All campers will receive individual attention with an 8:1 instructor ratio. The camp is for boy and girl youth baseball players ages 7-14, and is limited to the first 120 players to sign up. The camp will be held at Foothill's varsity baseball field from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. June 25 to 27. The cost is \$125 for all three days. Go to www.pleasantonpony.com for sign-up forms. If you have any questions, please contact Coach Scavone at 461-7515 ext. 3.

Cross Country Training Camp Registration is now open for a new cross country training camp for high school-age athletes. The Tri-Valley Cross Country Pre-Season Training Camp will be held from 8-11 a.m. Aug. 13 through 17 at the Foothill High School track. The cost is \$120. The five-day camp--open to all interested athletes--will include training, conditioning, goal setting, time trials and racing tactics, as well as off-site

running sessions on local Pleasanton trails. The coaching staff includes Rik Richardson, president of Athenian Athletics and assistant coach of Foothill's cross country and track teams, and Shannon Sos, Foothill's head cross country coach and assistant track and field coach. For more information, contact Rik Richardson at 518-9356.

Ten Star All Star Basketball Camp Final applications are now being evaluated for the Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp. By invitation only, boys and girls ages 10 to 19 are eligible to apply. Players from 50 states and 17 countries attended the 2006 camp. There is also a summer camp for boys and girls ages 6 to 18 of all skill levels. Call (704) 373-0873.

Support Groups

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

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Calendar

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 meets 10 a.m. the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Heritage Estates Retirement Community, 900 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. 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.

Lose It For Life The group process supports hope and change for men and women suffering from compulsive overeating. Group members meet at 12:30 every Monday and Thursday at 40 California Ave., Ste. B, and are encouraged to honestly express their thoughts and feelings in a supportive atmosphere facilitated by a licensed therapist. Call 426-0501 or visit www.rquest.org.

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.

Overeaters Anonymous Is Food Controlling Your Life? This group meets at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Thursday of each month on the second floor of the ValleyCare Medical Plaza, at the corner of Stoneridge Drive and W. Las Positas Blvd. This is a 12-step study and discussion meeting and newcomers are welcome. Call Kim at 640-9313.

Stress and Pain Management Strategies and Support Learn how to use visualization, relaxation techniques and new ways of thinking (cognitive restructuring) to help reduce stress levels and down-regulate pain. Share experiences and ideas in a supportive, caring environment. †Free classes are held from 11 a.m. to noon the first Wednesday of each month at ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite 270. Facilitated by Betty Runnels, M.A., Counseling

Psychology, Marriage and Family Therapy. Call 734-3315 or email bettyrunnels@earthlink.net.

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

Assistance League of Amador Valley The Assistance League of Amador Valley is looking for volunteers to assist with ongoing philanthropic projects. We are nonprofit organization enriching the lives of children, men and women in need through the strength of our volunteers. Email alamadorvalley@yahoo.com or visit www.amadorvalley.assistanceleague.org.

Reading Volunteers Needed The Barton Reading Program needs reading volunteers are needed and a new group is set to train in the fall. No experience is necessary and training is free. We will match you to a student who needs your help and will provide the materials needed to bring the student's reading and spelling up to grade level or above. There are currently over 80 volunteer tutors making a difference for over 135 Pleasanton students. An optional information meeting is from 7 to 8 p.m. May 23 at Valley View Elementary School, 480 Adams Way. Call Christina Clark at 426-4231 ext. 2638 or e-mail cclark@pleasanton.k12.ca.us.

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.tv-ar.org.

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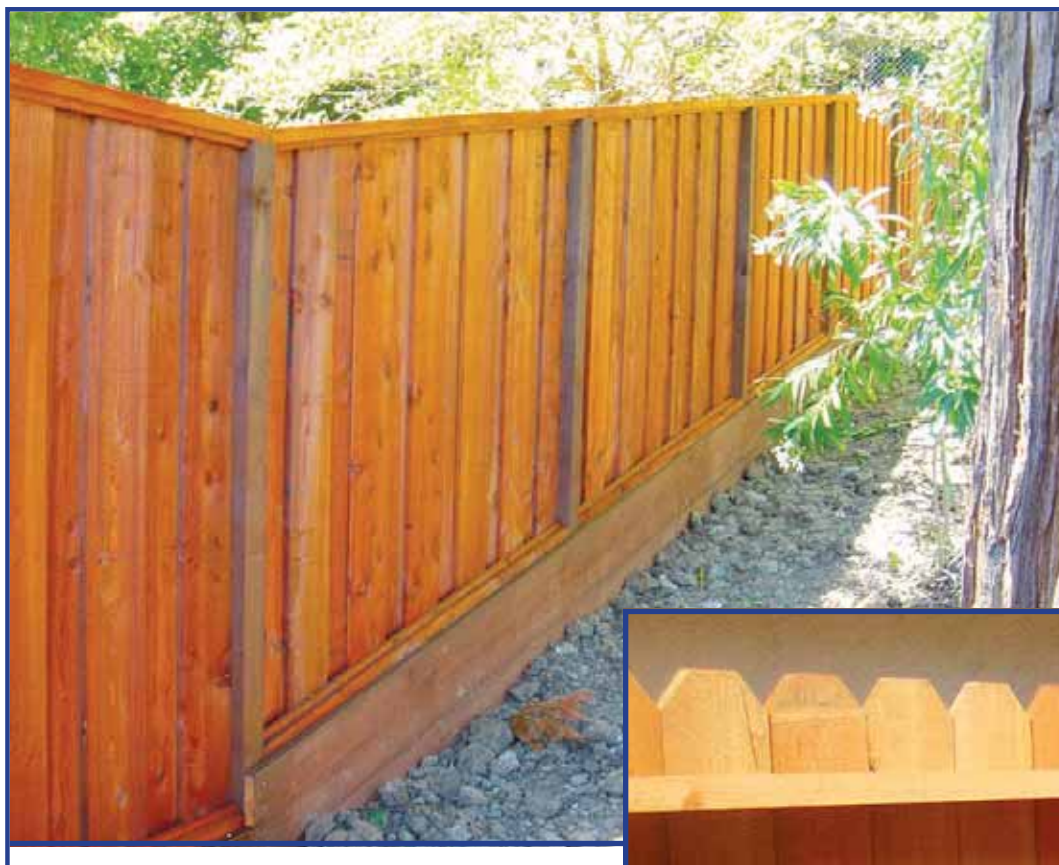
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Sports

U16 Rage represents Nor Cal, beats Hawaii

The Pleasanton Rage U16 Girls soccer team represented Northern California as a Wild Card in the 2007 US Youth Soccer Far West Region tournament in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Rage opened pool play last Monday night by defeating the Leahi 91 Premier from Hawaii by the score of 3-0. The Rage scored within seconds of the game's start on a nice combination of passes by Amanda Luxford and Esther Leon which led to a Carli Payne goal.

The Rage scored the next goal 15 minutes later. This time Leon benefited from a well placed pass from Megan Jurado for the score. Chloe Langdon finished the scoring in the second half on a beautiful break away goal. The Rage offense pressured the Hawaii defense all night while the Rage defense limited Hawaii's scoring opportunities.

—Bob Douglas

Later, in the 37th minute, Stefan Rabrenovich made a steal and quick run around the right corner. He fed Negrete, who this time found the right post. In the second half, DeAnza used creative runs and a sense of urgency to press the Ballistic defense. The backfield warriors for Ballistic were Justin Mullaney and Trevor Morrissey, with Jeff Squier attacking from midfield to clear out corners and crosses. GK Brett Webber had to make two sterling saves to preserve the tie minute when a DeAnza forward dummied a through ball and the onrushing midfielder fired from 15 yards. The other was very late when, in the 89th minute, Webber had to punch away a corner kick to preserve his shutout. The United will play the Sharks June 18 to determine if they will be able to advance to the semifinals.

—Joe Carlucci

Cross country training camp

Registration is now open for a new cross country training camp for high school-age athletes, held 8 to 11 a.m. Aug. 13 through 17 at the Foothill High School track. The five-day camp, is open to all interested athletes and costs \$120, will include training, conditioning, goal setting, time trials and racing tactics, as well as off-site running sessions on local Pleasanton trails. The coaching staff includes Rik Richardson, president of Athenian Athletics and assistant coach of Foothill's cross country and track teams, and Shannon Sos, Foothill's head cross country coach and assistant track and field coach. Call Richardson at 518-9356.

BUSC U18 steps toward Nor Cal Regionals

The BUSC United U18 team moved a step closer to the NorCal Regional championship game with a physical 0-0 tie with the DeAnza Force last Sunday in Turlock. The Force took the opening 10 minutes to the United, probing their midfield and putting together some combinations to put the defense on alert. Ballistic held, and then shifted the attack to the DeAnza end. The two best chances came in later in the half. Nestor Negrete made a great spin move off his mark and knocked one off the left post with the ball rolling across the goalmouth in the 26th minute.

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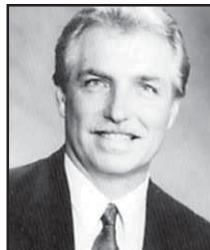
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Diamond Dogs take first

The Coldwell Banker Diamond Dogs celebrated their first place win June 2 for the Pleasanton Girls Softball League (PGSL) Mini-Upper championship. They went 3-0 during post-season play-off and championship games. The Diamond Dogs also placed first in their division during the regular season.

Pictured left to right are: Coaches Tom Roush and Tony Echavia, (back row); Sierra Salvo, Jennifer Zaballos, Ryan Harding, Katie Jefferies, Katey Moore, Antoinette Rydell (front row); Jennifer Ng, Christina Echavia, Isabelle Adams, Jenna Crawford, Nicole Rasmussen and Natalie O'Neal. The team was sponsored by local realtors, John and Daisy Ng of Coldwell Banker Real Estate.

—John and Daisy Ng

Transitions

Kenneth Dean Hill

Kenneth Dean Hill died June 16 in a Livermore plane crash at the age of 60.

A native of Butler, Penn., he and his beloved wife Sandy raised their children and made their home in Pleasanton for the past 23 years. They own Lighthouse Christian Supply store in Dublin, where they have been dedicated to the community for the past 18 years. Mr. Hill touched many hearts over the years and his family said it is a comfort to know he is by Jesus' side this day. He was a man who walked with God and left behind a great legacy and example for those who knew him.



Mr. Hill received his bachelor's degree from Marshall University and his master's from USC. He served his country proudly by devoting 20 years as a pilot in the U.S. Air Force, serving in Vietnam and retiring as major in 1988.

He is survived by wife of 39 years, Sandy Hill; three cherished sons, Brian Hill of Tracy and Rich Hill of Ashville, N.Y.; brother Rodger Hill of Larkspur, Colo.; and two adored grandchildren Kailyn Ann and Parker Dean. He also leaves behind a host of nieces and nephews.

A celebration of his life is scheduled for 7 p.m. June 25 at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Parkway. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to be made to the children's ministry center at Valley Community Church in Tracy. Checks can be made to VCBC CMC and mailed to VCBC, 903 S. Corral Hollow Road, Tracy, CA 95376. Arrangements handled by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.

Roselma dePonte Bonde died June 16 at the age of 97. Born in Pleasanton August 1909 to Manuel and Rita Siva de Ponte, Mrs. Bonde graduated from Pleasanton Elementary School in 1924 and graduated from Amador High School in the class of 1928. She then worked in San Francisco for a telephone company. She married her beloved husband Duke T. Bonde Sr. in 1928 and the two were married for 54 years until his death in 1982. Mrs. Bonde was very active in the community

Roselma dePonte Bonde

Roselma dePonte Bonde died June 16 at the age of 97.

Born in Pleasanton August 1909 to Manuel and Rita Siva de Ponte, Mrs. Bonde graduated from Pleasanton Elementary School in 1924 and graduated from Amador High School in the class of 1928. She then worked in San Francisco for a telephone company.



She married her beloved husband Duke T. Bonde Sr. in 1928 and the two were married for 54 years until his death in 1982. Mrs. Bonde was very active in the community

as a parishioner at St. Augustine Catholic Church, a member of the Catholic Daughters, Pink Lady Valley Memorial Hospital Thrift Shop from 1967 to 2000, Gray Ladies at Veteran's Hospital in Livermore, and Parks Air Force Base in Pleasanton.

She was also a 4H leader, Brownie and Girl Scout leader, a member and leader in the PTA, Life Member of Phoebe A. Hearst Alameda County District Council PTA where she received a citizen's award, Las Damas, Druids from 1935 past president, Native Daughters of the Golden West, Women's Improvement Club, VFW Auxiliary, Amador-Livermore Historical Society, Castlewood Country Club from the time it was the Old Hearst Ranch and the Republican Party.

She enjoyed skiing into the 1980s, winning a bronze medal at 67 years in the senior class; gardening, and traveling (Europe, Holy Land, Mexico and Canada). She also loved antique dolls, winning won top awards at the Alameda County Fair and talking to groups about dolls. Another interest was riding, breeding, raising, training and racing thoroughbreds. Mr. and Mrs. Bonde farmed and boarded horses as well as bought and sold property all over the Pleasanton Valley. They purchased their ranch in 1948 for \$35,000 for 340 acres. In 1958, they sold part of the ranch, which became Pleasanton Heights, in which the last subdivision was called Bonde Ranch.

She is survived by her loving family, children Duke T. Bonde Jr., Wayne Bonde and his wife, and Gail Bonde Hendrickson; 10 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren; and four great-great grandchildren.

Visitation was scheduled for June 20 at Graham-Hitch Mortuary with a mass of Christian burial June 21 at St. Augustine Catholic Church. Contributions may be made to Shriners' Hospital of Northern California for Children, 2425 Stockton Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95817; or to a favorite charity.

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Richard Allen Wood Sr.

Richard Allen Wood Sr. died in Pleasanton June 9 at the age of 69 after battling multiple sclerosis for 27 years.

Born in Yankton, S.D. Dec. 9, 1937, Mr. Wood was a radioman in the U.S. Navy. He lived in Dallas, Texas for 21 years; Pleasanton for 21 years and then in Dublin for 10 years. He worked as a printing supervisor for 20 years at the Drawing Board.

His hobbies included drawing, playing cards, puzzles, dominos and playing with his grandchildren. Mr. Wood also enjoyed spending time at the Dublin Senior Center.

He is survived by spouse of 45 years, Edith Jewell Wood; daughter Carrie West of Dublin; son Richard Wood of Fremont; four sisters; three brothers; grandchildren Melissa West of Dublin, Staci West of Dublin and A.J. Wood of Fremont.

Mr. Wood was preceded in death by his parents Clare and Ernest Wood.

Private services will be held. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation or the National Kidney Foundation.

Births

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

May 23

Jeannie & Gregg Jefferies, a boy

June 6

Stacy & Michael Combs, a boy

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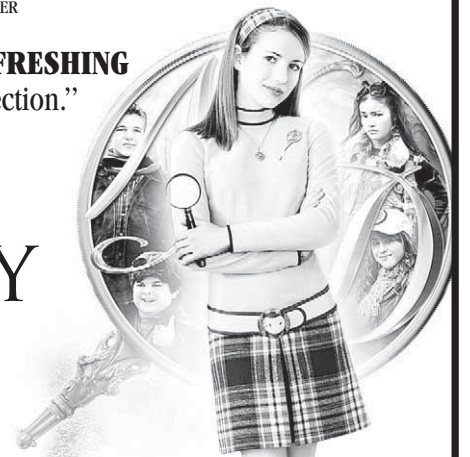
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201 Main St., Pleasanton, (925) 484-0789. Vic's delivers a starchy mix of American food, fast service and a cheery atmosphere. Owner Vic Malatesta teamed his love of sports with his passion for good food to create a solid dining experience. Vic's is 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.

California Cuisine

Stacey's at Waterford

4500 Tassajara Road, Ste. C., Dublin, 551-8325. We serve seasonal California cuisine using the freshest ingredients, with delicious dishes including seafood, pasta, meat, wood fired pizza and even vegetarian choices. Available for special events on Sundays. Visit www.staceysatwaterford.com.

Stacey's Cafe

310 Main St., Pleasanton, 461-3113. Located on Main Street in downtown Pleasanton, Stacey's is open for lunch and dinner seven days a week, serving fresh California cuisine. Come as you are and enjoy our dining room, banquet room, outdoor patios and full bar. Visit www.staceyscafe.com.

Catering

Fontina's Catering

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

Chinese

Chinese Szechuan

3059 Hopyard Road #G, Pleasanton, 846-5251. Chinese Szechuan is Pleasanton's best-loved Chinese restaurant. Family owned and run since 1987, it has friendly service, delicious food and great prices, including lunch specials and carry-out. A banquet room is available.

Panda Mandarin Cuisine

30 W. Angela St., Pleasanton, 484-4880. Panda offers several delicious

(continued on page 23)



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Dining Out

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 kabobs, 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.

Frankie, Johnnie & Luigi Too!

11891 Dublin Blvd., Dublin, 828-9380. Lively chatter and the aroma of garlic fill this warm and friendly, classically "Italian" restaurant. Watch cooks hand toss dough at this Tri-Valley pizza Mecca. It's perfect for romantic couples and the entire family. Authentic Southern Italian cooking includes traditional dishes such as Veal Scaloppini, Lamb Osso Bucco and Scampi.

La Vite Ristorante

3037-G Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 485-4500. La Vite Ristorante 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.

Girasole Grill

3180 Santa Rita Road at West Las Positas Boulevard, Pleasanton, 484-1001. Girasole, a locally owned family business, is an award winning California style Italian restaurant. We feature signature cuisine such as Scoozzi, Absolut! prawns, chicken gorgi, spinach for Veronica, Tuscan pork and signature fresh seafood...just to name a few. We are upscale, but California casual with friendly prices.

Pastas Trattoria

405 Main St., Pleasanton, 417-2222. Pastas Trattoria has an elegant atmosphere and a one-of-a-kind menu. We feature steaks, seafood and our famous pasta, plus a superb selection of spirits and fine wines. Live music will jazz up your Friday and Saturday evenings. The banquet facilities have wireless Internet for large parties, up to 70 guests.



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(continued on page 24)



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Sato Japanese Cuisine

3105-K Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 462-3131. Makoto Sato, Owner Operator has been serving traditional Japanese cuisine for over 25 years in Pleasanton. Enjoy the variety of our

sushi bar and Japanese tempura and teriyaki sushi. We are open for lunch and dinner. We also do catering. Open Tuesday through Sunday and closed Monday.

Mexican

Blue Agave Club

Main St., Pleasanton, 417-1224. Come downtown for fine dining and casual lunches in our outdoor patio. Our menu includes a variety of selections from classic tortilla soup and mole poblano to grilled salmon (a house specialty) and filet mignon with a spicy Chipotle Chile sauce. We also specialize in premium "sipping" tequilas and carry over 200 different varieties. Visit www.blueagaveclub.com.

Pizza

Gay Nineties Pizza Co.

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

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

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