

# PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Vol. VIII, Number 24 • July 13, 2007

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It's all about Pleasanton



## Still helping out Katrina

As devastating hurricane nears 2-year anniversary,  
local faith groups continue to make trips to rebuild region

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# Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

## Amador grad home from Army patrols in Afghanistan

**A**rmy Corporal Douglas Winter is home on leave after 16 months of patrolling the Afghanistan-Pakistan border as part of the 10th Mountain Division's 11th Bravos infantry unit. It's a welcome break from the cold winters and hot high country heat that hit early this year along the mountainous range that separates the two countries. Winter, now 25, was in the Class of 2000 at Amador Valley High School, and has long been a hiker and backpacker. His mother Shauna said Douglas has hiked hundreds of miles, has used his Eagle Scout expertise with compasses and maps to find his way around much of California's remote areas, and turned out to be a perfect fit when the Army sent him to northern Afghanistan to help secure the porous border. While on daily patrols in a Humvee across rough dirt roads, Winter also developed important contacts among the numerous small tribal villages that provided information on potential troublemakers. With a caring concern for others among his strong suits, he spent time in each community to make sure the Afghans had enough food, potable water and medical supplies, even doling out soccer jerseys to youngsters who were taking up the country's latest sports craze.

Winter was recruited while at Amador, but Shauna, a nurse at John Muir Hospital, and his father Doug, a contractor, insisted he wait until he turned 18 after graduating before joining the Army. Uncertain about his future or even whether he wanted to enroll in college, young Douglas thought military service would give him new experiences, challenges and time to choose a future path. He's found the Army so much to his liking that he reenlisted last year for another four-year hitch that will take him to 2010. He doubts that he'll stay on after that, but will be qualified by then for \$40,000 in college assistance under the G.I. Bill and additional military subsidies for higher education to make it worth his while.

On July 25, he leaves for Fort

Drum in Upstate New York, where he'll train new recruits for duty in Afghanistan, Iraq and other locations. After 15 months on the assignment, he expects to be re-deployed back to Afghanistan, again with the 10th Mountain Division and probably a back pack and all of the protective armament he's now used to wearing in what he views as a peacekeeping role and "a chance to give back to my country." Actually, life in one of the most remote locations in the world wasn't all that bad, Winter recalled. Troops had regular meals in a mess hall, not canned food as used to be the fare, and there was hot water for showers most days. Although troops never ventured out alone to shop or mingle with the market crowds, Afghans were friendly and even solicitous, brewing hot tea and offering food from their own plates.

Winter also appreciated the friendliness upon coming home to Pleasanton, where more than 100 lined Graham Street in front of his home, waving flags and cheering as he drove up to the house with his parents. These were veterans and patriots from Pleasanton Military Families and other organizations that send care packages, letters and offer support for troops serving in harm's way from the Tri-Valley. Winter said he also enjoyed the Pleasanton Weekly, which we send to all local troops serving in Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf. Each copy went through many hands as his fellow soldiers welcomed hometown news, even if they had never been to Pleasanton. Although regular media news was scarce, local news helped those in the 11th Bravos unit and beyond keep in mind the lifestyle they'd soon see again when their overseas tours ended.

Before leaving for Fort Drum though, Douglas Winter has one more assignment. He will bestow the Eagle Scout badge on his younger brother, Daniel, 18, in a special ceremony at Trinity Lutheran Church Saturday, an event the Winter family delayed until Douglas Winter came home. ■

### About the Cover

Dan Ashton, a member of Pleasanton Presbyterian Church in Pleasanton, stands with "Mizz Alma." A group from Pleasanton Presbyterian rebuilt the 87-year-old woman's home after it was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. Many local faith groups continue to travel to the Gulf Coast to lend help in what's estimated to be many years of recovery.

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# Streetwise

**Q:** What do you think of the new mural being painted by local artist Gary Winter on the north side of Strizzi's restaurant?

Asked Downtown



**Kevin Burns**

Realtor

I am very impressed with the painting. It really beautifies Pleasanton even more than before. I am glad the City Council approved the funding and hats off to the artist.

**K.C. Sebree**

Retail

So far it looks really nice. I like the concept of the painting.



**D.J. Ames**

Pilot

I haven't stopped by to study it, but each time I drive by it evolves. I like the barren landscape and enjoy it now, although I couldn't then.



**Karen Cole**

Teacher

It's a very nice addition to downtown and I like the fact that it's by a local artist. I have been watching it in stages.



**Ted Marshall**

Sales

It fits in to what I expect from Pleasanton.



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

# Newsfront

## News Digest

### Trail sections closed in Danville

The East Bay Regional Park District will oversee a two-section rehabilitation project on the Iron Horse Trail this summer in Danville. A 0.7-mile second from Prospect Avenue north to Del Amigo Road and a 750-foot section between Hartz Avenue and Sycamore Valley Road will be fenced off starting July 11. Call Louie Guzman at 687-3419 for information.

### City offers new swim classes

The city will be holding a swim day camp for children ages 6-12 years old from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 23 to 27 (code #37953) and Aug. 6 to 10 (code #37954) at the Amador Recreation Center. The cost is \$175 for residents and \$192.50 for non-residents. The city also has day and evening classes that meet weekdays that meet at the center's diving pool. To learn more, call 931-3420.

### Comedy night benefits cancer research

Tri-Valley SOCKs, Tommy T's Comedy and Steakhouse and KKIQ FM radio are partnering for a comedy night to benefit Susan G. Komen for the Cure July 25 at Tommy T's, 5104 Hopyard Road. Some auction items include a wine tasting for 10, a day at the beach package and more. Doors open at 6 p.m., auction begins at 7:30 and the comedy starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at [www.trivalleysocks.org](http://www.trivalleysocks.org).

### Romeo and Juliet perform at Centennial Park

The City of Pleasanton Civic Arts hosts the all-female troupe Woman's Will production of Romeo and Juliet at 6 p.m. July 28 at Centennial Park, 5353 Sunol Blvd., adjacent to the Senior Center. Admission is free and the community is advised to bring picnic dinner, low chairs and blankets.

### 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](mailto:editor@PleasantonWeekly.com)

## Foothill senior still recovering after beating

*Police say one arrest made in teen house party gone awry*

by Emily Atwood

A 17-year-old Foothill High School senior who suffered serious head trauma after being "viciously attacked" by several people July 2 is no longer in critical condition, according to Pleasanton Police Sgt. James Knox.

Police were called when a fight broke out during a teen house party in the 1600 block of Whispering Oaks Way around 9:30 p.m. July 2. The fight reportedly started when the boyfriend of a girl who lives at the home asked uninvited guests to leave.

Refusing to leave, the guests began to vandalize his car and several others which were parked in front of the home, police said. Then several suspects allegedly attacked the boyfriend in the

street by punching, kicking and hitting him with a wooden chair and a baseball bat. The victim was rushed to Eden Hospital in Castro Valley and was in critical condition. Police have since said he is no longer in critical condition, but declined to list his current status.

Pleasanton police would not disclose the ages of the suspects, but Lt. Darrin Davis said some of those involved were from Southern California and Nevada.

According to a police report released the day after the incident, witnesses identified by name three of the suspects at the scene of the assault. Police said detectives searched for the suspects that same day and located five males who have been identified as suspects or associated with the group. One male juvenile, 17, was arrested

on a charge of felony assault with a deadly weapon and one count of felony vandalism.

According to other reports, including one on PleasantonWeekly.com's Town Square forum, the party was advertised on social networking Web site MySpace.com. "Harry G.," identified himself as a resident of the same neighborhood as the party and voiced concern about teen parties being held when parents are out of town. He said some of the partygoers were from Pleasanton and some were from out of town.

Asking what could be done to prevent further damage and assaults, he wrote "the teen in our neighborhood was perhaps one blow away from death. Will it take a murder or manslaughter

(continued on page 8)

Photo illustration shows possible outcome if Staples Ranch would be annexed by Livermore instead of Pleasanton.



by Jeb Bing

## Arts center could be in jeopardy

*PDA fears county could halt negotiations for railroad corridor*

by Jeb Bing

The Pleasanton Downtown Association launched a communications effort this week to make sure its 700 members and others recognize the risks the city faces if voters sign and later approve an initiative measure affecting development of Staples Ranch.

Downtown Attorney Peter MacDonald told PDA members at a Board of Directors breakfast Tuesday that much more is at stake in the current initiative effort than just Staples Ranch. He said negotiations are under way to acquire the county-

(continued on page 7)

## Councilman blasts Staples Ranch 'elitists'

*Jerry Thorne warns county could give land to Livermore if open space initiative proceeds*

Pleasanton City Councilman Jerry Thorne has issued a special "alert," predicting dire consequences for the city and taxpayers if a proposed initiative affecting development plans for Staples Ranch proceeds.

Thorne said that the so-called "Greenbelt Initiative," co-sponsored by Pleasanton residents Matt Morrison and Anne Fox, would cancel out a Memorandum of Understanding between the city and Alameda County over the eventual development of the 124-acre Staples Ranch.

The site, located in unincorporated Alameda County, could be annexed into Pleasanton according to the agreement with the development of an auto mall, a retail center, a 600-800-unit apartment and assisted living complex

for seniors and an indoor ice rink proposed by a subsidiary of the San Jose Sharks.

Thorne's alert, sent by email to several thousand civic and business leaders, comes at the same time that City Attorney Michael Roush approved language in the co-sponsors' second, revised initiative that contains the same open space restrictions for Staples Ranch, but would allow the use of 40 acres for an auto mall. Since the newest measure is an initiative by itself, the co-sponsors actually have two initiatives in play, with a requirement that they obtain signatures from at least 10 percent of registered voters who cast ballots in the November 2006 elec-



Jerry Thorne

(continued on page 6)

## BART alters train schedule

*Passengers should plan to arrive few minutes earlier than usual*

Those taking BART from the Dublin-Pleasanton area for either business or pleasure will need to begin arriving a few minutes earlier than normal to catch a train.

The train schedule underwent new changes Thursday that will stay in effect through 2009, while the transportation agency builds a second Dublin/Pleasanton station west of the current one.

As a result, trains at the existing station will depart two minutes early in the morning and will arrive at the station five to seven minutes late. This will occur on all weekdays between the hours of 4 a.m. and 7 p.m., according to BART spokesman Linton Johnson.

Johnson said from now through the second

(continued on page 8)

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**Thorne**

(continued from page 5)

tion—or about 3,500—to qualify either measure for a public vote.

“I met with our county supervisor, Scott Haggerty, today and I am saddened to report that he intends to move forward with the processes necessary (EIR, etc.) to develop the Staples Ranch property in the county (probably with a tax sharing agreement with Livermore or Dublin for services),” Thorne stated in his alert.

“Other options available to him would include the development of the property within Livermore or Dublin,” Thorne added. “He indi-

cated to me that he is ‘running out of time’ and cannot continue to work with Pleasanton under the threat of the two initiatives recently filed.”

Thorne added: “I did let him know about ‘Pleasanton First’ and that we are working hard to prevent the initiatives from getting the required signatures over the next 180 days and that we support completing the elements contained in the current MOU with Pleasanton.”

“To be very blunt,” Thorne stated, “the supervisor, the county, our neighbors and most of us are fed up with the handful of elitists that have been dominating the agenda on

Stoneridge and the Staples Ranch property. It’s time to put Pleasanton first.”

Thorne said Haggerty has agreed to meet with backers of Pleasanton First, a citizens’ group opposed to the open space initiatives, to review their progress in defeating the signature-gathering efforts. The meeting will be held at 4 p.m. July 19 at The Hop Yard Alehouse & Grill, 3015-H Hopyard Rd.

*Note: For a different viewpoint on the open space initiatives, visit our Letters to the Editor section featuring a letter written by Councilman Matt Sullivan.*

—Jeb Bing

**Fair closes 17-day run on high note**

*2007 brought record numbers*

After its usual 17-day run, the Alameda County Fair closed its gates last Sunday. More than 385,000 people attended the fair, topping last year’s attendance of 382,000.

Celebrating its 95th year, the fair preserved favorite traditions as well as continuing newer features, most notably the Trackside Terrace, an open-air dining lounge in the racing grandstands. The terrace included three levels of seating, catered food, private betting machines and full bar and fair officials said they plan to make it a staple at the race house.

The horse races were big this year, bringing in the highest Race Meet Handle in fair history at \$39

million—\$4 million more than last year’s receipts.

More than 50 couples looking for a little luck outside of the race track renewed their wedding vows at the fair on July 7 (7/7/07), joining couples doing the same nationwide. Others tried their luck at the fair’s many different contests, which included a karaoke competition, a summer dating game, a golf putt-off and apple pie-, barbecue ribs- and ice cream eating contests.

This year’s Concert Series brought in many popular acts including the Village People, Peobo Bryson and SheDaisy. However, R&B group Boyz II Men and teen rock band The Jonas Brothers were the stand

out acts, both giving standing-room-only performances in the 3,200-seat amphitheater. The Jonas Brothers really made an impression on fair-goers with fans lining up as early as 3 a.m. the morning of the concert.

Keeping with the fair traditions, many people joined in the small animal and livestock shows bringing increases in revenue to both arenas. Small animal sales totaled \$27,532 and the livestock auction brought in \$731,381, up \$3,400 and \$46,300, respectively, from 2006. Entries in all competitive exhibits were also up this year, totaling 17,633 participants, up 7.05 percent from 2006.

—Rebecca Guyon

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## Initiative

(continued from page 5)

owned railroad corridor that cuts through downtown between First and Main streets, but that County Supervisor Scott Haggerty's ire over the Staples Ranch measure could delay or even scuttle those negotiations.

"Acquisition of the corridor is essential to building the proposed Firehouse Arts Center" Greg Resnick, chairman of the Arts Center Foundation, told the PDA.

That's because both parking lots designed to serve the new center and even part of the foundation would use the corridor.

At the request of PDA President Vic Malatesta, association staff will send out materials that involve the two initiatives, whose co-sponsors are Matt Morrison, a tax research specialist, and Anne Fox, chairwoman of the Pleasanton Planning Commission.

The pair's second initiative, which differs from the first in that it would allow a 40-acre auto mall by Hendrick Automotive Group on the 124-acre Staples Ranch site, would ban all commercial and residential uses of the property, which lies in unincorporated Alameda County. The county has an agreement with the city of Pleasanton to develop Staples with a retail center, 600-800-unit senior living facility, a community park that might include

an indoor ice rink to be built and operated by a subsidiary of the San Jose Sharks, and the auto mall.

Haggerty told Councilman Jerry Thorne that if the citizens' measures to block development on Staples proceed, that would have the effect of canceling the county's agreement with Pleasanton. He would then move to develop the land as a county project or move to have the property annexed to Livermore. Such a move could cost Pleasanton an estimated \$5 million in municipal tax revenue.

At the breakfast meeting, PDA members said they recognize that Staples Ranch is outside the purview of the organization, but the impact of alienating county officials over a possible change in how the land should be used affects downtown businesses as well as other residents and city taxpayers.

They said acquisition of the corridor is critical not only for the Firehouse Arts Center but also to provide up to 300 off-street parking spaces.

The City Council earlier turned down a bid by Alameda County to relocate the ACE train station off county land on the Alameda County Fairgrounds parking lot to the undeveloped Bernal property. Haggerty said he had an agreement with former Mayor Tom Pico that the station's current location would be temporary and he has asked that it be moved.

Livermore officials recently approved a 180-store Prime Outlet Mall across from Staples Ranch on the southeast side of the I-580-El Charro Road interchange. They have also eyed annexing Staples Ranch if Pleasanton's agreement with the county falls through, as well as both sides of El Charro Road between Stanley Boulevard and I-580.

On Wednesday, the day after PDA breakfast, initiative co-sponsors Fox and Morrison moved forward on their plan to collect at least 3,500 signatures from registered voters in Pleasanton to put their Staples Ranch initiative on a future ballot. They have six months in which to collect the signatures.

Although the PDA, as a quasi-city-supported organization cannot involve the organization politically, Executive Director Christine Saldivar said it would forward all of the data and information to members to let them decide whether to sign the initiative measure or not. That effort is already under way, with the organization transmitting to members an "alert" from Councilman Thorne on the risks of the initiative, a letter from Councilman Matt Sullivan suggesting that by allowing the auto mall, the proposed initiative should be discussed by the council, and a document prepared by the newly-formed Pleasanton First citizens' group urging the public to not sign the initiative measure. ■

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## Brawl

(continued from page 5)

charge against another Pleasanton teen for everyone to wake up to these events? What can parents and neighbors do?"

To comment on the topic, visit [www.PleasantonWeekly.com](http://www.PleasantonWeekly.com) and view the Town Square postings. Registration is not required. ■

## BART

(continued from page 5)

BART station's completion, trains will connect to the existing station using only one track. The second track will be used for the station that's under construction.

The new station, which will be built in the median of Interstate 580 near Stoneridge Shopping Center, also includes 1,200 parking spaces, 210 housing units, office space and a hotel. Currently, there is a 10-mile gap between the Castro Valley station and the Dublin/Pleasanton station.

—Janet Pelletier

# Submit your photos for a chance at a cover

*Weekly's contest rewards amateur photographers for capturing essence of Pleasanton*

Calling all Pleasanton amateur photographers: We are looking for photos that represent Pleasanton and its residents. Photos should be taken in Pleasanton with identifiable Pleasanton landmarks or background. The best photos will include people—but no more than three—be colorful, focused and not too busy.

Submissions will be judged by the Pleasanton Weekly staff based on quality of photo, suitability of the content and how well the photo represents Pleasanton.

First place will be awarded \$25 and will be published in a future Pleasanton Weekly publication with the photographer credited. Second- and third-place winners will also be awarded cash prizes

and their photos published with a name credit.

Entries should be emailed to [editor@pleasantonweekly.com](mailto:editor@pleasantonweekly.com) as a JPEG file, no larger than 2MB. The text of the email should include the caption information such as names of the people in the photo and where it was taken, the entrant's name and a daytime phone number.

Deadline for the entries is 5 p.m. Monday, July 16. Selected entries will be placed on PleasantonWeekly.com and winners will be contacted by July 20. Winners must be able to provide a full resolution image—a JPEG larger than 10MB, uncorrected and not cropped.

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**Opinion**

**Editorial**

**Saving TV30**

The four Tri-Valley mayors who now control TV30 Community Television seem determined to keep this important local asset on the air. That's good. TV30 and its auxiliary channels—28 and 29—is one of the few independent community stations in the country. For years since it was organized as a public, nonprofit corporation in 1983, the station has operated on a shoestring but adequate budget, using volunteers and old camera and production equipment donated by the Livermore Lab and video production companies. It has consistently provided the four cities it serves—Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore and San Ramon—with locally-produced programming of interest to those who live here. Today, in order to keep pace with changing technology and programming, the station is woefully short of needed revenue. The cost of upgrading cameras, of converting from analog to digital and of meeting rising salary and benefit expenses of its small professional staff now exceeds income.

In fiscal year 2005-06, the TV30 operating budget was \$590,000. For FY 2006-07, which ended June 30, it was \$650,000. Currently, 62 percent of the funding income for TV30 comes from Comcast fees of 50 cents per subscriber, which amounts to \$403,668. A majority of the additional income is derived from dubbing and production services, underwriting by corporate sponsors and other donations. Sadly, it's not enough. Expenditures for the past fiscal year exceeded revenue by more than \$200,000, causing the City Councils of the four cities to reluctantly advance \$65,000 out of their respective General Fund budgets to bail out TV30. That's why the mayors stepped in, evicting the independent citizens' board of directors they had appointed, to stem the financial bleeding. That's a tall order given that the 50 cents from Comcast subscribers has probably peaked at about \$400,000. Subscribers to direct satellite TV don't pay a 50-cent surcharge nor do they receive TV30 cable broadcasts. Streaming videos of City Council meetings, such as Pleasanton now offers, also make TV30's broadcasts of these meetings less important, with anyone on a computer connected to the Internet able to watch these meetings—or any segment of them—on demand at any time and from any place that has Internet access. Also, more and more TV30 competes against scores of other cable stations both for local sponsors and in terms of quality, innovation and frequency of the programs it produces. Viewers can only watch "In a Word" and other TV30-produced shows once or twice, not repeatedly for a month or more. But without more revenue, TV30 can't move forward with these needed improvements.

Wisely, the four mayors have hired two outside TV-savvy consultants, one to assess revenue and funding options available to TV30 that might offset operational costs, and the other to analyze and report back on similar community television operations and programming. Some, such as Palo Alto's community station, are city-owned and operated; others, although fewer, are independent of local government control but more heavily supported by corporate grants and sponsors than TV30. These studies come as Dublin takes over oversight responsibilities for TV30, a responsibility that each of the four cities take for a two-year term. Mayor Janet Lockhart became chairwoman of the TV30 board of directors July 1 and she and her staff will take charge of managing the station's budget and legal affairs, working with Executive Director Glenn Davis on personnel and operations issues. Lockhart is a long-time booster of TV30 and insists that her goal is to return the TV30 organization to a financially stable position free of taxpayer subsidies and government control. As strong supporters of locally independent community television, we share that goal.

# Talking Points

by Gina Channell-Allen



## Internet has changed roles in news gathering

Last week this column addressed how the Internet has changed the public's role in media, and this week I will address how it has affected Pleasanton Weekly journalists.

Newspapers have never really figured out how to tame this beast called the Internet. At first, newspapers tried to ignore it. Then they tried to make their Web sites dependent on the print version by putting in "teasers" of a few sentences of a story, directing readers back to the newspaper for the rest of the story. Then they tried to make the site an extension of the newspaper by running the same stories and photos as the print version. Then they tried to get visitors to pay for the regurgitated news. Obviously that didn't work.

In February, the Pleasanton Weekly launched its new Web site and, essentially, we went from a weekly newspaper to a daily media outlet. The journalists who used to have the luxury of a week to research, interview and write a story now have to produce stories on the spot and get it on the site. Online readers want it all and they want it now!

The good part is that this arrangement allows us to get important breaking news to the community immediately. And, while the newspaper can be used to get breaking news out, it is more often used to expand on the story and more fully explain the issues.

The Web site also allows interactivity. With the stories we do transfer from print to online, readers have to go no further than the bottom of the story to leave a comment.

We want your comments and questions.

And speaking of comments, please keep them coming! "Talking Points" is an ombudsman column. Encarta World English Dictionary defines "ombudsman" as "somebody responsible for investigating and resolving complaints from consumers or other members of the public..." A newspaper ombudsman's role is to be responsive to readers and to make the newspaper more transparent.

John from the Foothill Farms neighborhood wrote in a Town Square comment, "My concern is how the Weekly lets weeks pass before stating their policy publicly. They should have said something right away rather than let the politics build on this thing. I wonder how objective the Weekly truly is..." It was exactly this policy clarification that was the impetus of this column. The audience and speakers at a recent City Council meeting were questioning this policy. It wasn't that this policy was initiated for this situation; the policy was communicated because it was questioned. It's my hope that this column will allow readers to ask those questions before "the politics build." ■

*Gina Channell-Allen, a 20-year journalism veteran, is the president of the East Bay division of Embarcadero Publishing Company, president of the Pleasanton Weekly and publisher of the Danville Weekly. Send questions to gallen@pleasantonweekly.com or comment on PleasantonWeekly.com Town Square.*

# Letters

## Councilmember commends new initiative writers

Dear Editor,

I commend the authors of the Pleasanton Eastern Gateway Initiative for their revised position to exempt 40 acres from their proposal to allow the Hendrick's Auto Mall to relocate and expand on the Staples Ranch site. This

project is very important to our local economy and to the long-term fiscal health of Pleasanton.

I think this move opens the door for further discussions and a potential compromise that could meet the needs of the county as property owner, the local business community, the neighborhood, and the City of Pleasanton. I would encourage the Council to pursue this opportunity to resolve this conflict in a way that best represents the community as a whole.

*Matt Sullivan  
Pleasanton City Council*

## Thanks, Tauscher, for leading the charge

Dear Editor,

Thank you Rep. Ellen Tauscher for stepping up and leading the charge on this important issue! It is about time we repeal state sanctioned discrimination and get on with recognizing and supporting the value of each-and-every contributing American citizen. Imagine "firing" highly skilled specialists who could have been part of "turning the tide" and lessening the loss of American lives.

*Holly Blash, Pleasanton*






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# Still helping out Katrina

As the devastating hurricane nears 2-year anniversary, local faith groups continue to make trips to rebuild region

by Janet Pelletier

It's been nearly two years since Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast with gale force winds and massive flood waters, but you wouldn't know it by visiting the still devastated region.

Thousands of homes lie vacant, many crumbling under the pressure of rotted wood. At night, streetlights that once lit up the neighborhood remain off. Some signs linger on properties claiming "we will rebuild," but other signs saying "please notify me if bulldozing" have become more of a common sight in the past few months.

Pleasanton residents Diana and Howard Mendenhall have been organizing groups going to Louisiana for the past year and a half. The couple, who attend Pleasanton Presbyterian Church, has gone on five trips so far, recently returning from one in March. They and 10 others plan to head back to the area in November.

Diana Mendenhall still vividly remembers seeing video of the destruction flashing on a television screen while she and her husband were on a humanitarian trip in Armenia. Already involved in national non-profit Habitat for Humanity, the Mendenhalls took leadership training at their own expense so they could organize a group that would periodically go to the Gulf Coast to help in the rebuilding process. The things they learned in the training included how to manage a budget, organize the construction and ensure that the team was compatible.

Among those who joined the Mendenhalls were fellow Pleasanton Presbyterian members



Many homes, like this one with a sign promising "I am coming home" remain vacant.



The senior high youth group from Trinity Lutheran Church returned from a trip to Bay St. Louis, Miss. July 1. Here, they make their mark by posting a Pleasanton sign on a post with signs from other cities.

Don Bartel, Carol and Robin Little, Cathy Lipman and Dan Ashton. Each time, they've gone to Slidell, La., a relatively hard-hit area 30 miles north of New Orleans and located on the north side of Lake Pontchartrain, where the levees broke.

"You have to see it to believe it," Robin Little said of the destruction.

Little is referring to the number of churches and businesses that are either destroyed or remain empty.

"To sit there and listen to their personal stories—their financial loss is so great," Ashton said of those who have stuck around despite the harrowing circumstances.

In all estimations, about half of the people who live in the greater New Orleans area have permanently left. The Pleasanton Presbyterian group describes the area as almost a ghost town.

But while news of the region is expectedly grim, there is a beacon of hope in the vast number of faith-based groups that continue to trek to the South to help residents move out of their FEMA trailers and back into their homes.

Residents such as "Mizz Alma" as Pleasanton Presbyterian group members fondly call her, put a face on the thousands of people who have been affected. Alma Page, 87, and her husband, were left with just a skeletal frame and foundation when they returned to their home.

But after the Pleasanton group teamed up to rebuild their home, they reconstructed it the way it had always been before the hurricane struck, down to the smallest detail with the refrigerator in the living room.

Many who have stuck around are living in the federal government-provided FEMA

trailers. Initially slated to stay in them for 18 months, most continue to reside in them and will for much longer.

"People went through a lot of bureaucracy and red tape—excuses for doing the wrong paperwork were given," Ashton said.

"We've been told that 90 percent of the aid has been done through faith-based organizations and 10 percent by the federal government," Robin Little said.

Through their trips, the group has worked on between 12 and 15 houses. Each group member pays for his or her own airplane ticket and food. All split the cost to rent a van to reach Slidell from the airport in New Orleans and for construction materials.

The message the group wants to send is that there is still a lot of work to be done in the Gulf Coast.

"People are starting to forget. It's not going to be years to fix it; it's going to be decades," Ashton said.

"The message is you can help. You don't need to have skills," Howard Mendenhall said.

Ashton is a perfect example of that. At 83, the retiree who used to be a technology manager in a paper mill, has hoisted himself up for repair work on some of the houses' roofs.

"There's so many menial skills such as holding a flashlight up for others that need to be done that you don't have to have special skills," said Lipman, who herself learned to use a power saw on one of the team's trips to Slidell.

Pleasanton Presbyterian isn't the only church with members involved in the rebuilding effort. Lynnewood United Methodist Church members returned from a trip to Slidell in April and have also

been to Pascagoula, Miss. About 17 people from both Lynnewood and Asbury United Methodist Church in Livermore joined a high school group from Los Angeles and a men's group from Ohio who all scheduled their trips through UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) and more specifically, North Shore Disaster Recovery.

The Lynnewood-Asbury group worked on four houses while on their humanitarian mission and Lynnewood member Steve Elliot said each family who benefited had a remarkable story to tell.

Elderly sisters Ruth and Dorothy reminded the group of the movie "Steel Magnolias"—ladies who were "tough as nails" but very sweet.

Ro and Paul, who have four children, were displaced from their home and were living in Massachusetts. To add insult to injury, while they tried to rebuild their home, they were ripped off twice by building contractors. But after coming to UMCOR for assistance, the Pleasanton group was able to help the family get their lives back.

"I think it's cathartic for them to tell their story to us even though they've told it a million times," Elliot said. "One of the guys we helped on a prior trip has a photo album of all of the teams that have come and worked on his home. Every time we go back, we go back to the houses that were there before and take them a blanket."



A boat was washed atop a home in Slidell, La.

Visible progress has been made. Elliot recalls the first trip the team made in April 2006 where groups were focused on providing basic necessities to residents such as food, shelter and clothing. Later that year in November, much of the rubble had been removed and by this past April, most of it was gone completely.

"The big difference this last time was that they were bulldozing a lot of areas where there just was no way to rebuild," he said. "Large orange signs were placed on these homes that said 'involuntary demolition has been authorized,' where



Pleasanton Presbyterian group members include: l-r, front row: Cathy Lipman, Diana Mendenhall, Carol Little; back row: Howard Mendenhall, Dan Ashton, Don Bartel, Robin Little.

they couldn't find the homeowner or whatever. It's a different type of dismay you feel. Some of these people, their homes are going to be torn down and they may not even know it."

The Lynnwood-Asbury group plans to return to the region in November.

Local youths have also joined the effort, representing Pleasanton.

Thirty people from the senior high youth group at Trinity Lutheran Church returned from a week in Bay St. Louis, Miss. on July 1.

While the youth group has participated in local humanitarian missions, this was their first time traveling so far away.

"The needs continue there. Those people have still not recovered from that experience of Katrina," said Trinity youth pastor David Faustina.

The idea came about when some of those in Faustina's youth group suggested instead of building homes in Mexico, to head to the Gulf Coast to offer aid.

"We started researching different programs and we found that there's such a need in Bay St. Louis, which is about 45 minutes from New Orleans," he said.

The local group joined 300 other groups of students from across the country; they were the only ones representing California. The Trinity volunteers worked with the nonprofit Group Work Camps Foundation.

Sixteen-year-old Maggie Berrigan said she's had fun learning how to do different types of construction jobs. But more than that, she said she walked away with a life-changing experience.

"The residents told us how they felt when the hurricane came and where they were and how scared they were and how they were trying to find their family," she said. "It makes it so much more personal. It's not just an event you see on the news. This affected people's lives and it is to this day affecting people's lives."

Maggie said she distinctly remembers one woman she helped.

"She was so happy when she saw the house; that was just the best reward. It made being in the Mississippi sun totally worth it. I would do it again just to see her smile," she said.

Fifteen-year-old Chris Stiles said he was surprised by the amount of destruction in Bay St. Louis.

"When we arrived at the airport, everything was fine, but as we got farther and farther into Louisiana and Mississippi you could see the destruction and how slow the rebuilding is going," he said.



Members from Lynnwood United Methodist Church help paint a home in Slidell.

Among the many jobs he was given included installing closets and painting a deck. Chris said when he first signed up to go on the trip, he never thought going would affect him so much.

"I was just expecting to have a lot of fun with my group down there, but it's really been a lot more than that. It's definitely not what I expected," he said.

Faustina said he's happy the group was able to see the human spirit and will now walk away with a deeper respect for the quality of life they have in a city like Pleasanton.

"We've been given many blessings here; we could be a blessing to others," he said. "It's amazing to see the light inside someone's heart when they see a group of students coming into their homes to help. Also on the reverse, it's also amazing to see the students' souls transformed because of a simple thank you."

**Learn more**

Hurricane Katrina, which reached Category 5 status, struck the Gulf Coast on Aug. 29, 2005.

For more information about Habitat for Humanity, visit [www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org). For information on UMCOR, visit <http://new.gbmg-umc.org/umcor/> and for information on Group Work Camps Foundation, visit [www.groupworkcamps.com](http://www.groupworkcamps.com). ■

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## WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

### City Council

Tuesday, July 17, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Consider conceptual site/use plan and reorientation of the park boundary for the proposed Staples Ranch Community Park
- Consider Sycamore Road and Alisal Street Traffic Calming Program
- Authorization to join the East Bay Regional Communications Joint Powers Authority

### Kottinger Place Redevelopment Task Force

Monday, July 16, 2007 @ 6:30 p.m.

Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

- Selection of a Site Plan Scenario for further project planning

### Library Commission

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Library Community Room, 400 Old Bernal Avenue

- Programs and Goals for the Children's and Circulation Departments
- Review and discuss Commission Goals
- Discuss the Night at the Library Event

### Economic Vitality Committee

The July 19 Economic Vitality Committee meeting has been cancelled. The next scheduled committee meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2007

### Housing Commission

Thursday, July 19, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Review of ECHO Housing Fair Housing Audit Report for 2006
- Acceptance of Annual Audit for Ridge View Commons for the Fiscal Year Ending Dec. 31, 2006
- Discussion of Pleasanton School Board proposal to increase School Impact Fee for Affordable Housing Units
- Report on resale statistics for below-market priced homes under the Pleasanton Homeownership Assistance Program (PHAP)

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### NOTICE OF FIRST-TIME HOME BUYER AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM – BIRCH TERRACE TOWNHOMES by Silverstone Communities

Birch Terrace is a new townhome development that is currently under construction by Silverstone Communities at Vineyard Avenue and Birch Creek Drive in southeast Pleasanton. A total of seven townhomes will be offered for sale at below-market prices to low and moderate income first-time home buyers who meet eligibility requirements and can qualify for financing.

The sale of the below market units is being coordinated by the Tri-Valley Housing Opportunity Center (TVHOC). Interested parties should attend the following orientation session:

Monday, July 16, 2007, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Pleasanton

Application packets will be available at the July 16 orientation session and (after July 16) at the City of Pleasanton Offices (123 Main Street, Pleasanton) and on the City's website at [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us](http://www.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](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar)

# Community Pulse

## Police Bulletin

### 9 DUI arrests made during patrols

The Pleasanton Police Department conducted 13 DUI saturation patrols from May 24 to June 29 as a part of the 2006-07 Traffic Safety and DUI Enforcement Grant. The patrols were dedicated to

DUI enforcement in order to raise public awareness and reduce the number of traffic collisions related to drinking and driving.

Nine DUI arrests were made and 21 field sobriety tests were given as a part of the saturation patrols. In addition, 16 citations were written for various vehicle code violations, including driving on a suspended license, driving without a valid license and vehicle equipment violations. One warrant arrest was also made during one of the saturation patrols.

## Police Report

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

### June 29

- Vandalism:
  - 10:42 a.m. at the intersection of W. Las Positas Boulevard and Payne Road; worth less than \$400
  - 1:57 p.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road; worth less than \$400
  - 8:41 p.m. at the intersection of Windsor Court and Churchhill Drive; worth more than \$400
- Assault:
  - 1:53 p.m. in the 600 block of Main Street; assault with a deadly weapon
  - 8:41 p.m. at the intersection of Windsor Court and Churchhill Drive
- Burglary:
  - 7:16 a.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue
- Robbery:
  - 8:41 p.m. at the intersection of Windsor Court and Churchhill Drive
- Possession of paraphernalia:
  - 7:09 a.m. at the intersection of

Valley and Bernal Avenues

### June 30

- Theft:
  - 9:24 a.m. in the 8100 block of Regency Drive; grand theft
  - 11:02 a.m. in the 4500 block of Oracle Lane
- Vandalism:
  - 12:09 p.m. in the 800 block of St. John Court; worth less than \$400

### July 1

- Theft:
  - 12:25 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; identity theft
  - 2:46 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Vandalism:
  - 9:34 a.m. in the 800 block of Main Street; worth less than \$400
  - 10:49 a.m. in the 1500 block of Kolln Street; worth less than \$400
- Drug/alcohol violations:
  - 1:42 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
  - 9:01 p.m. at the intersection of Stanley Boulevard and Valley Avenue; DUI

### July 2

- Theft:
  - 12:27 p.m. in the 4300 block of Chapman Way; petty theft
- Vandalism:
  - 4:10 p.m. in the 4400 block of Black Avenue; worth less than \$400
- Assault:
  - 2:18 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road
- Battery:
  - 12:30 a.m. in the 7700 block of Forsythia Court; domestic violence
  - 12:13 p.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive; domestic violence

### July 3

- Theft:
  - 8:36 a.m. in the 1500 block of Poppybank Court; petty theft
- Vandalism:
  - 8:59 in the 6400 block of Calle Esperanza; worth more than \$400
- Assault:
  - 12:45 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road
- Burglary:
  - 4:08 a.m. in the 2600 block of Calle Reynoso; car burglary
- Mental health danger:
  - 8:15 a.m. in the 5100 block of Muirwood Drive
- Embezzlement:
  - 11:48 a.m. in the 5400 block of Black Avenue


### July 4

- Burglary:
  - 4:13 a.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue
- Drug/alcohol violations:
  - 1:51 a.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
  - 4:13 a.m. in the 200 block of Del Valle Court; public drunkenness

### July 5

- Theft:
  - 1:16 p.m. in the 4400 block of Valley Avenue; identity theft
  - 3:30 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- Assault:
  - 2:02 a.m. in the 5600 block of Springhouse Drive
  - 3:03 p.m. in the 6200 block of Robin Court
- Drug/alcohol violations:
  - 1:37 p.m. at the intersection of Foothill Road and Dorothea Court; possession of marijuana

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# Transitions

## Weddings

### Amy Avakian and Mark Wibholm

Amy Avakian of Pleasanton and Mark Wibholm of Dows, Iowa have announced their plans to marry on July 28 at Rios-Lovell Winery in Livermore.



The bride-to-be graduated from Foothill High School and Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. She completed her master's degree in physical therapy at Cal State Long Beach and her doctorate of physical therapy at UCSF. She works as a physical therapist for John Muir Health System in Walnut Creek and Danville.

Her parents are Jeanne Avakian of Auburn, and Dennis and Sandy Avakian of Stockton.

The prospective groom graduated from Dows High School and served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve from 1992 to 1998. He received his electrical technician certification from Northwest Iowa and a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Iowa State University. He is owner of Wibholm Electrical Contracting of Dublin.

His parents are Carl and Judy Wibholm of Dows, Iowa.

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# Calendar

## 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.

## Civic Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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](http://www.laspositascollege.edu/communityed). Call 449-1275.

**Writing 'Round the World** Starting July 9, Monday through Thursday, Livermore's non-profit Twin Valley Learning Center, 1304 Concannon Blvd., offers second and third grade graduates a four-week language and writing experience tour. Classes will be crammed with field trips, international presenters and experiences about which students will write. Sign-up info at 447-3455. The cost is \$325.

## Clubs

**Amador Valley Quilters Lemonade Social** Bring lunch and join us at 12:30 prior to the meeting July 14 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Lemonade and cookies will be served, and we will hold an Americana Quiz. Our guest speaker will be noted author and teacher Nora McMeeking, who will also hold a workshop the following day. Visit [www.amadorvalleyquilters.org](http://www.amadorvalleyquilters.org).

**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@web-bearings.com](mailto:jhaigh@web-bearings.com) or 373-7982.

**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

## Class Reunions

**Amador Class of 1977 Reunion** Looking for AVHS 1977 alumni! It is time for the 30-year reunion for the class of 1977, and we are looking for alumni contact information. Please contact Rob Cook, at [robcook@mcdermottcosta.com](mailto:robcook@mcdermottcosta.com) or (510) 599-8525, so we can send you details. Save the dates of Sept. 14 (mixer) and 15 (dinner/dancing).



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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](http://www.pleasantondowntown.net).

**Design4Living Conference** The Design4Living Conference will be held from 6:30 to 4 p.m. July 20 and 21 at Cornerstone Fellowship, 348 N. Canyons Parkway, Livermore. The cost is \$78 for both days. Featured speakers are Jennifer Rothschild, Nancy Stafford, Sheri Rose Shepherd and Debbie Alsford. Chonda Pierce as special guest comedian and Bethany Dillon will perform in concert Friday night. Register online at [www.cornerstoneweb.org](http://www.cornerstoneweb.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](http://www.livermoreartassociation.com).

**Cold-Glass Sculptor Gives Talk** Join Studio 7 Fine Arts, 400 Main St., from 2 to 5 p.m. July 15 where Jack Storms will talk about cold-glass sculpting, a process known by only a handful of artisans around the world. In addition to Storms' work, an exhibit of bronze sculptures by Nano Lopez will be displayed. Exhibit runs through July 22.

**Kaiper & Schnitter: "Go Figure!"** Gina Kaiper and Jim Schnitter will exhibit figurative paintings in the "Go Figure!" exhibit from July 18 to Aug. 25 at the Tri-Valley SPCA Art Gallery, 4651 Gleason Drive. The reception, open to the public, will be from 2 to 5 p.m. July 21. Sponsored by Las Positas College Art Club, the exhibit is open from 1 to 8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Email [gkaiper@comcast.net](mailto:gkaiper@comcast.net).

**Local Yet Global** Worthington Gallery West, 739J Main St., presents the second annual Locals Only group art show through August 4. The artist's reception is from 5 to 7 p.m. July 6. Artists include Nicole Cameron-Diosdado, Sue Evans, Sally Haig, Kim Jagger, Julie Johnson, Gina Kaiper, Kevin Wright and more.

## Film

**Blue Vinyl** Blue Vinyl is an often humorous expose' of the vinyl industry. It's a part of Movie Night at the IBEW, a non-partisan event from 7 to 9 p.m. July 21 at 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. It's open to the public, wheelchair accessible and refreshments are provided. Meet and greet begins at 6:30 p.m. and a short discussion follows the film. Free or \$3 donation. Call 462-3459.

**Freedom Writers** The Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., presents the Mature Adults Program at 1 p.m. July 17. We will show the movie "Freedom Writers" starring Hillary Swank. Based on the real life experiences of teacher Erin Gruwell, this inspirational story shows the ability of a dedicated teacher to change lives. Call 931-3400 ext. 37.

## Fundraisers

**Broadway Revue Benefits Local Habitat for Humanity** At 8 p.m. July 14, two Pleasanton businesses will sponsor an evening of Broadway music to benefit Habitat for Humanity East Bay. Acc'sentials and Coldwell Banker

have lined up an impressive array of performers for the Broadway Revue, which will be held in Acc'sentials' garden courtyard, 520 Main St. Tickets are \$25 per person. Call 931-9130 or visit [www.accsentials.com](http://www.accsentials.com).

**Healthy India Project Yard Sale** World School owners spend time in Dharamshala, India working with Tibetan Buddhist nuns in exile teaching holistic health principles. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 14-15 at 411 Division St., Vibrational Healing Arts is sponsoring a yard sale. They are asking the public to donate items to benefit the Healing India Project. Call 461-2533 or visit [www.worldschoolmassage.com](http://www.worldschoolmassage.com).

## Health

**Free Summer Immunization Clinics** Axis Community Health, 4361 Railroad Avenue, offers free immunization clinics for children on Aug. 4 and Sept. 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.

**Knee Replacement Surgery for Women** Come learn about artificial knee joints specially designed for women from 7 to 8:30 p.m. July 25 at the San Ramon Regional Medical Center's South Conference Room, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. Robert Malstrom, M.D., orthopedic surgeon, will present the educational program. Learn who is a candidate for this surgery, what to expect, and the recovery process. Men are welcome to attend too. Call (800) 284-2878 or visit [www.sanramonmedctr.com](http://www.sanramonmedctr.com).

**Lymph Loving** World School of Massage and Holistic Healing Arts, 699 Peters Ave., offers a free seminar from 4:30 to 6 p.m. July 24 called Lymph Loving! Learn physiology and techniques for the body's most important recycling system.

## 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 to July 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.

**Camp Kadima** Camp Kadima, a Jewish community summer day camp for students entering kindergarten through eighth grade held at the Sunol Glen School in Sunol, is accepting registrations for its fourteenth year of operation. Camp Kadima, the only Jewish day camp in the East Bay, offers a range of activities from sports and outdoor programs to crafts and drama. For a detailed schedule of sessions and rates, go to [www.campkadima.org](http://www.campkadima.org).

## Pleasanton Real Estate News



by Gerarda Stocking

### SHOULD YOU BUY A FIXER-UPPER?

You'll find a statement like this in almost every book dispensing advice for those seeking to buy their next home: If you and your spouse are handy, consider buying a fixer-upper. You can save a lot going in and, once you've done the necessary repairs and important improvements, you'll live in a home whose market value has already grown considerably. Sounds good, but consider several questions: (1) Are you REALLY "handy"? Quite often, a fixer-upper can have very serious needs for a well-trained plumber, electrician, and finishing carpenter. If that's you, great. If not, make sure you know what you're getting into. How? Have at least one professional inspection of the home and follow the inspector's every step, taking notes.

And (2) can you be sure that the costs of making the repairs and improvements won't keep climbing until they wipe out whatever savings you achieved in the initial purchase price? That's worthy of a conversation with the home inspector.

Lastly, (3) are you positive your relationships with those who share your home—especially a partner or spouse—can survive the potential trauma of having constant home work for months and months before you actually have the house of your dreams? All of this is worthy of discussion with your real estate advisor, so call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at [www.gerardastocking.com](http://www.gerardastocking.com).

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**Join the Pleasanton Downtown Association  
on Thursday, July 19 for our 7th Annual Summer**

# Wine & Stroll

6 pm – 9 pm

**Over 25 members of the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association will showcase their wines in over 35 Downtown Pleasanton shops and businesses. Hors d'oeuvres and alternative beverages will also be available.**

**TICKETS:**

**\$25 In Advance Available Now**  
(through July 18)

**sold at:**

**Clover Creek**  
670 Main Street  
**Pleasanton Downtown Association**  
830-A Main Street

**Studio 7 Fine Arts**  
400 Main Street

**The Rose Hotel**  
807 Main Street

**\$30 at Event**  
if not sold out

**GET STARTED HERE:**

Under the Arch in front of the Museum on Main Street. Redeem or purchase your tickets (if available) and pick up your wine glass and event map between 5:45-7:30pm

**Glasses and event maps must be picked up by 7:30pm**

Price includes wine glass, event map and tastings

Not responsible for lost, misplaced or stolen tickets

Rain or shine. No Refunds.

**Participating Businesses      Featured Wineries**

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| A Touch Of Health . . . .               | Little Valley Winery         |
| About Face . . . .                      | Tamas Estates                |
| Acc'sentials . . . .                    | Wood Family Vineyards        |
| Aldrin Adamos, DDS . . . .              | Elliston Vineyard            |
| Alexander's Main Street Gallery . . . . | Concannon Vineyard           |
| All About Me . . . .                    | White Crane Winery           |
| Aloha Island . . . .                    | The Steven Kent Winery       |
| Apparel & Co. . . . .                   | Retzlaff Vineyards           |
| Bibiane Bakery . . . .                  | Charles R Vineyards          |
| Cazinha Portrait Design . . . .         | Les Chenes Estate Vineyards  |
| Clover Creek . . . .                    | Rodrigue Molyneaux           |
| Day Art Studio . . . .                  | Tenuta Vineyards             |
| Domus of Pleasanton . . . .             | el sol Vineyard              |
| Gallery M . . . .                       | Murietta's Well              |
| Gift Baskets of Pleasanton . . . .      | Bent Creek Winery            |
| Gourmet Works . . . .                   | Hidden Creek Winery          |
| Gregory Frame Shoppe . . . .            | Livermore Valley Cellars     |
| It's Only Natural . . . .               | Fenestra Winery              |
| Jewelers Gallery . . . .                | Rodrigue Molyneaux           |
| Lily Ann's Lingerie . . . .             | Little Valley Winery         |
| MD Spa . . . .                          | Bodegas Aguirre Winery       |
| Pans On Fire . . . .                    | John Christopher Cellars     |
| Salon Vivace . . . .                    | Big White House              |
| Savvy Seconds . . . .                   | Battaion Cellars             |
| Serenity Stoneworks . . . .             | Wente Vineyards              |
| Sincerely Yours Cards & Gifts . . . .   | Eckert Estate Winery         |
| Studio 7 Fine Arts . . . .              | Crooked Vine Winery          |
| Sugar Shack . . . .                     | Tenuta Vineyards             |
| The Berry Patch . . . .                 | Palomares Vineyards          |
| The Nail Gallery . . . .                | Bent Creek Winery            |
| The Treehouse . . . .                   | Boa Ventura De Caires Winery |
| Three Dog Bakery . . . .                | Livermore Valley Cellars     |
| Towne Center Books . . . .              | Fenestra Winery              |
| Valley Plumbing . . . .                 | White Crane Winery           |
| World School Of Massage . . . .         | Westover Winery              |
| Worthington Gallery West . . . .        | The Singing Winemaker        |

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Blondie's Shoes, CyclePath, Noland's Cake Shop, Oasis Grille & Wine Lounge

Event sponsored by



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**Medieval Swordplay at the Library**  
At 2 p.m. July 19, the Pleasanton Library will host a demonstration of medieval European martial arts. See armor, swords, daggers and how the knights of old used them! For children 5 and older. Free tickets distributed at the Children's Desk a half hour before the show. Call 931-3400 ext. 8.

## Lectures/ Workshops

**Entering the Entrepreneurial World**  
Join us from 8:30 a.m. to noon July 18 for the "Entering the Entrepreneurial World" seminar at CarrAmerica Center, 4400 Rosewood Dr. This is a free event. Call 960-1600 or visit [www.techventures.org](http://www.techventures.org).

**Help-U-Buy-Ur-Home Free Seminar**  
From 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 21, Premium Investments will present Help-U-Buy-Ur-Home at the Holiday Inn, 1050 Burnett Avenue, Concord. The program is designed for renters who are exploring the idea of buying their first home as well as those who own a home and are considering scaling up. Complimentary breakfast and a comprehensive set of materials are included. Call 1-877-239-2095 or e-mail [Plseminar@comcast.net](mailto:Plseminar@comcast.net).

**Introduction to Orchids**  
Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., presents experienced orchid grower and author Steve Klitzing from 2 to 3 p.m. July 22. Come and learn proper growing techniques and get information on all types of orchids. Call 931-3405.

**Laughter Playshop**  
Laughter has numerous health benefits, especially for the immune system. Share the benefits of laughter and participate in simple improvisation exercises from 10 a.m. to noon July 21 at Valley Care Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd.,

Suites 240 A & B. For cancer patients, their families and friends. Call 933-0107 or visit [www.twc-bayarea.org](http://www.twc-bayarea.org).

**Organize Your Piles of Photos**  
Do you have years of photos that you would like to organize, but have no idea how or where to start? Let Carole MacLean help to get you started from 10 to 11:30 a.m. July 24 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Discover ways to organize photos to effectively convey your story. Learn ways to preserve your photos or recover damaged ones. The cost is \$1.25 for residents; \$1.75 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

**Whose Life Is It Anyway?**  
The public is invited to a lecture reframing the abortion and euthanasia debate with Rabbi Eli Silberstein from Cornell University. The event takes place at 7:30 p.m. July 16 at Chabad, 6101 Via De Los Cerros. The cost is \$10. Call 846-0700 or visit [www.JewishTriValley.com](http://www.JewishTriValley.com).

## Live Music

**Musical Art Under The Oaks**  
From 2 to 4 p.m. July 15, the Pleasanton Community Concert Band will be performing at the Alden Lane Nursery for the Art Under the Oaks celebration. The Band will be playing a variety of musical styles including selections from popular songs, oldies, pops and marches. Themes from major films will include "Pirates of the Caribbean," "James Bond Suite," and "The Theme from Rocky." Come enjoy the beauty of sound and sight at Alden Lane Nursery.

## Miscellaneous

**Adoption Faire**  
From noon to 4 p.m. July 14, Tri-Valley Animal Rescue hosts an adoption faire at 4595 Gleason Drive. Adopt a dog and receive three free in-home professional dog training

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## On Stage

**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](http://www.LivermoreShakes.org).

**Stand Up Comedy** Laugh-A-Lot Productions presents Wednesday Night Funnies at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St. Come see some of the best comedians in the Bay Area without having to drive to San Francisco. The cost is \$7 plus a two item minimum. Visit [www.laughalotproductions.com](http://www.laughalotproductions.com).

## Seniors

**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 [pleasenor@yahoo.com](mailto:pleasenor@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.

## Sports

**Aloha Golf Classic** Sign up now to attend the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce's annual golf tournament from 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. July 16 at the Blackhawk Country Club, 599 Blackhawk Club Drive, Danville. There will be fun, food, networking,

and Raiderette and 49er Gold Rush cheerleaders. The cost is \$195 per golfer, \$1,000 for 4-some, or \$50 for dinner/auction only. Call 837-4400 or visit [www.danvillechamber.com](http://www.danvillechamber.com).

**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. For more information, contact Rik Richardson at 518-9356.

**EastBay Colt.45s Baseball-Fall Tryouts Update** EastBay Colt.45s will conduct tryouts for their 13U and 14U competitive fall travel teams July 11 and July 18 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Diablo Vista Park in Danville. Cost is \$25. Download registration form at [www.eastbaycolt45s.com](http://www.eastbaycolt45s.com) or call Jason Brosnan at (510)551-6866.

**Pleasanton Ridge Ride** Join cyclists of all levels on this friendly, no drop mountain ride. Riders meet the Cyclepath group at 6:00 p.m. every Tuesday night in July at the Foothill Road staging area. Rides last approximately two hours. Call 485-3218 or visit [www.cyclepath.com](http://www.cyclepath.com).

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### WHEN

Wednesday, July 18, 2007  
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

### WHERE

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Complimentary desserts will be served. Bring your friends and family to learn how you can reduce your energy costs for your home and business.

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## Bulletin Board

### 115 Announcements

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### \* DEADLINE \*

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**Tuesday 11:59 PM**  
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### 135 Group Activities

**CO-ED SOFTBALL**  
Local CO-ED REC softball team, with various ages and skill levels, seeks Pleasanton woman or couple to join us on WED nights starting in AUG. We play hard, but it's (tm) mostly about the beer and having a good personality. E-Mail Gus: gmanning@assaytech.com

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BMW 2003 X5 3.0i - \$27,595

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Mercedes 1999 320 CLK Cabriolet - \$17,500 ob

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**Mercedes Benz 2004 S 600, AMG V-12 Turbo**  
2004 Mercedes-Benz S600, 9K Miles, AMG Sport Package V-12 Twin Turbo 493HP. Desert Silver. Fully Loaded. Must see to appreciate, too many goodies to name. 1 owner, fully garaged. Only serious buyers need to apply. Vehicle in mint condition. Asking price of \$88,000.00 Please call: 408) 243-1375, no emails please.

Pace Arrow 1989 Motor Home - \$15,000. 0

### 203 Bicycles

10-SPEED BICYCLE - \$50

### 210 Garage/Estate Sales

**Danville, 121 Starlight Pl (nr Greenbrook/El Capitan Intersection), Sun, July 15, 9am-1pm**  
Items for all: furn, housewrs, yard tools, electronics, games/toys, clothes, Honda Civic w/new stereo, much more!

**Danville, Arcncy Ct, July 14, 8-12noon**  
Come early for best selection!

Pleasanton, 2079 Eilene Dr, Sat July 14, 8?

Pleasanton, 4439 Fairlands Dr., Saturday, July 14, 9-5

### 215 Collectibles & Antiques

Beats Record - \$2000 OBO

Coffee Mill, Pepper Mill & Spice - \$89

Football posters - \$9

Garantied Forged Grinder - \$39

Hood's Sarsaparilla bottle - \$28

Olympic Pins - \$3

Radio Flyer pumpercar - \$100

### 220 Computers/ Electronics

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### 230 Freebies

JENN AIR DISHWASHER - FREE

### 240 Furnishings/ Household items

Candles - \$15

Desk/file/shelves - \$800

Green Eyes Soapstone Slab!!! - \$1700

JENN AIR DISHWASHER - \$FREE

Nice Dresser with 4 drawers - \$50

Signed Print - \$7

Wash machine & Dryer - 300.00

Window Box - \$250/obo

### 245 Miscellaneous

Craftsman Drill - \$9

### DIRECTV

Satellite Television, FREE Equipment, FREE 4 Room Installation, FREE HD or DVR Receiver Upgrade and \$100 cash back! Programming Packages from \$29.99/mo. 800-380-8939.

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In placing our puppies, our goal is to find the very best homes for them that we possibly can. We look for responsible, knowledgeable buyers that are ready, willing and able to accept the responsibilities that go along with ownership. These are very special (and very small) dogs, and they need special care and consideration. A securely fenced yard is a must, as is the time, facilities and resources to provide for a puppy's needs. Whether for pet or show, we want each puppy to have a long, happy and healthy life with a loving family. We love to stay in touch with our new "extended" family members, and are happy to provide any advice and support that you may need as you adjust to life with your new puppy.

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at little or no cost to seniors/disabled with Medicare, MediCal or Insurance. Free Delivery, Training and Warranty. ProHealth Mobility. 1-877-740-4900. www.ProHealthMobility.com (Cal-SCAN)

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Adorable lab puppies, 8 weeks old, AKC, loved, peaceful and playful. Available immediately! \$300. plus shipping. (650) 948-1967 or (402) 387-1626.

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### 270 Tickets

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## Kid's Stuff

### 345 Tutoring/ Lessons

Math Tutor

Piano Lessons

**Tutoring by Cred. Teacher**  
Algebra, Geometry, English  
Call Vicki 925-846-4241

### 355 Items for Sale

booster & step, potty, potty seat - \$5-\$10

Boy's clothes from 3-6 years old

lot of activities books for kids

lot of books for kids, from - \$1

Nice Hammond Piano, only

Pajamas for kids 3-4 years old - \$3-\$7

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Toys for learning, from \$3

Toys from \$1

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### 500 Help Wanted

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(not a court position)

**PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE COURT**  
Applicants must be bondable, must have high school diploma or equivalent with cashiering, computer and good customer service skills. Must provide a verifiable typing certificate of 35wpm - typing certificate must accompany the application. Applications may be obtained by calling  
**(661) 940-1907**  
California Traffic Safety Institute

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Embarcadero Publishing Company, parent company of this publication, is looking for a person experienced with troubleshooting desktop PCs and Macs and can work as part of a support team, troubleshoot hardware, software and network problems as well as maintain and installing machines and software. Our PCs run 2000 Professional or XP Professional; our Macs run OS X.

You would work providing computer support for our six Bay Area sites in Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Mountain View, Pleasanton, Mill Valley and Danville. Our main office and your base of operation is Palo Alto.

While this is an entry-level position, ideal candidate would have help desk and troubleshooting experience to hit the ground running. Novell Netware experience is a plus. Your own transportation is a necessity. Mileage is reimbursed. This is a full-time, benefited position.

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Please submit a cover letter, a summary of your experience and why I would want to hire you, as well as your resume to [fbravo@embarcaderopublishing.com](mailto:fbravo@embarcaderopublishing.com). Please put "CSA Position" as your subject.

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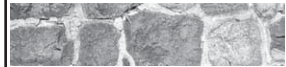
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1031 Exchange

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San Ramon, 1 BR/1 BA - \$369,000  
San Ramon, 4 BR/3 BA - \$1,119,950  
[www.williamsteam.net/DuetW/Loft/](http://www.williamsteam.net/DuetW/Loft/), 2 BR/2.5 BA - \$499,000  
[www.williamsteam.net/WalkToDowntownPleasanton/](http://www.williamsteam.net/WalkToDowntownPleasanton/), 1 BR/1 BA - \$310,000

[www.williamsteam.net/beautiful/](http://www.williamsteam.net/beautiful/), 3 BR/2.5 BA - \$645,000

[www.williamsteam.net/fabulousHome/](http://www.williamsteam.net/fabulousHome/), 5+ BR/4+ BA - \$989,500

[www.williamsteam.net/greatHome/](http://www.williamsteam.net/greatHome/), 3 BR/2 BA - \$549,000

[www.williamsteam.net/stunningHome/](http://www.williamsteam.net/stunningHome/), 5+ BR/4+ BA - \$989,500

**830 Commercial/Income Property**

**OFFICE SPACE/PLEASANTON**  
Office space available in Pleasanton professional office building..Great location with plenty of parking!

Approximately 500 sq. feet, with central air/heating, alarm system, and like new with recent new painting and carpeting.

Rent is \$825.00/mo. All outside maintenance, garbage, and water included. Utilities paid by renter.

For further information or to see space, please e-mail request with phone number for return contact.

**840 Vacation Rentals/Time Shares**

**AIRY CAPITOLA CONDO**  
Luxury Condo, Lots Of Light, Overlooking Monterey Bay, Across From Beach & Pier, 1000 sq ft, 1 Bedroom w/ 2 Queen Beds, Large Walk In Closet, Sleeper Sofa In Large Living Rm, 2 TVs, Dining Rm, Full Kitchen, Inside Laundry, Secure Covered Parking, Rare Find In This Area, Walk To Everything! \$1500 wk. Call 925-417-0617

**Kauai, HI Golf Resort Condo**  
Beautiful Cliffs Golf Resort Condo in Kauai, Hawaii Ocean Views + Office & DSL connection 2BD,2BA located in Princeville Resort,Rate: \$850 per week,Please email us at "cliffs5307@yahoo.com"

**Point Reyes / Tomales Bay**  
Pt. Reyes/Tomales Bay\*\*\*\*\*  
707-878-2602,westmnet@svn.net  
[www.vrbo.com/43075](http://www.vrbo.com/43075)

**RedWeek.com**  
#1 TIMESHARE MARKETPLACE. Rent, buy, sell, reviews, New full-service exchange! Compare prices at 5000+ resorts. B4U do anything timeshare, visit [www.RedWeek.com](http://www.RedWeek.com), consider options. (Cal-SCAN)

**The Village At Northstar**  
Enjoy a World Class Summer Vacation from the "2006 built" 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath,(sleeps 6) condominium at the Village at Northstar. Mid-week rates are \$269/night and weekend rates are \$289. 925 484 2045

**Timeshare!!!**  
PAYING TOO MUCH 4 maintenance fees and taxes? Sell/rent your timeshare for cash. No Commissions/Broker Fees. 1-877-868-1931. [www.VPResales.com](http://www.VPResales.com) (Cal-SCAN)

**Timeshares 60-80% off Retail!**  
Save 60-80% off retail! Best Locations & Seasons! Call for free magazine 1-800-920-8514. [www.holidaygroup.com/cht](http://www.holidaygroup.com/cht)

**845 Out of Area**

**Affordable Montana Lands.**  
Owner Financing 160 AC/ BLM-\$139,900. 640 AC TROPHY ELK- UNDER \$1,000/ AC. 20 AC TIMBERLAND- \$49,900. Sought after Trophy Elk area. 350 class and better! Great muleys and whitetails, grouse, and pheasants. Access to large BLM and stateland. Call WSL 1-888-361-3006 [www.MontanaLandAndCamps.com](http://www.MontanaLandAndCamps.com) (Cal-SCAN)

**Arizona Mountain Ranch**  
Wickenburg area. 36AC - \$98,900. Get back to nature at Saddle Creek Ranch. Great getaway, ideal climate, spectacular views, wildlife, privacy. ADWR report available. E-Z terms. Offered by AZLR 1-888-246-1914. (Cal-SCAN)

**Fish Lake Valley, NV**  
10 ac Trout Stream \$59,900. Endless Recreational Opportunities. Spectacular views of Eastern slope of snowcapped White Mountains. Within looming presence of Nevada's highest peak and range. Cool, clear year round Rainbow Trout Creek. Call today! Won't last! Call 1-877-349-0822. (Cal-SCAN)

**Riverfront, Dockable Homesite**  
on beautiful Cape Fear River. 15 minutes from Wilmington, NC. Stunning river views. Private, fully amenitized community. 910-383-2820 Cape Fear Bluffs, LLC. (Cal-SCAN)

**So. Colorado Ranch Sale.**  
35 Acres- \$36,900 Spectacular Rocky Mountain Views Year round access, elec/tele included. Come for the weekend, stay for a lifetime. Excellent financing available w/ low down payment. Call Red Creek Land Co. today! 1-866-696-5263 x2679. (Cal-SCAN)

**Wyoming Ranch Liquidation.**  
35 acres - \$59,900. Recreational paradise perfect getaway. Great climate, wildlife, easy access. Title insurance, surveyed. Financing. Call UTLR 1-888-703-5263. (Cal-SCAN)

**850 Acreage/Lots/Storage**

**1st time offered**  
40 acres - \$39,900; 80 acres - \$69,900. Near Moses Lake, WA. 300 days of sunshine. Mix of rolling hills and rock outcroppings. Excellent views, private gravel roads, ground water and easy access! Financing available. Call WALR 1-866-585-5687. (Cal-SCAN)

**1st time offered**  
Arizona Show Low area. 6 acres - \$39,900. Cool climate, spectacular views of White Mountains, trees, horse privileges, nearby lakes, priced well below comparables offered by AZLR. ADWR report available. 1-888-551-5687. (Cal-SCAN)

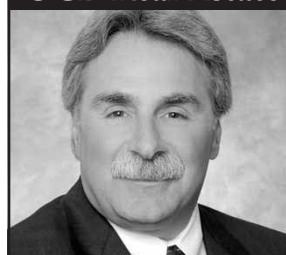
**1st Time offered.**  
New Mexico Ranch Dispersal. 140 acres - \$99,900. River access. Northern New Mexico. Cool 6,500' elevation with stunning views. Great tree cover including Ponderosa, rolling grassland and rock outcroppings. Abundant wildlife, great hunting. EZ Terms. Call NML&R, Inc. 1-866-354-5263. (Cal-SCAN)

**A Rare Find New Mexico**  
Lake Access Retreat - 10 acres - \$25,900. Priced For Quick Sale. Incredible setting, including frequently running Pecos River, views and diverse topography. Limited availability. Excellent financing. Call NML&R, Inc. 1-888-204-9760. (Cal-SCAN)

**Absolute Steal**  
ARIZONA Ranch Liquidation. 36 AC - \$59,900. Perfect for private retreat. Endless views. Beautiful setting with fresh mountain air. Abundant wildlife. Secluded with good access. Financing available. Offered by AZLR 1-877-301-5263. (Cal-SCAN)

**855 Real Estate Services**

**UCB Real Estate**



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owner/broker

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Let's Talk, I'll Listen!  
Real estate advisor with over 22 years experience & over 3,700 homes sold!

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ed@homeinsider.com

**Bank Foreclosures**  
Homes from \$10,000! 1-3 bedroom available! HUD, Repos, REOs, etc. These homes must sell! For Listings Call 1-800-425-1620 ext. H107. (AAN CAN)

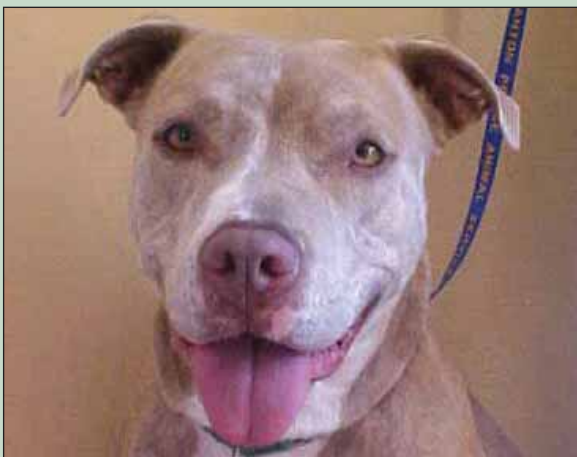
**Roommates.com**  
All Areas. Browse hundreds of online listings with photos and maps. Find your roommate with a click of the mouse! Visit: [www.Roommates.com](http://www.Roommates.com). (AAN CAN)

**890 Real Estate Wanted**

**Pre-foreclosure help**  
We can Help your pre-foreclosure situations- Call for help today 925-600-8076

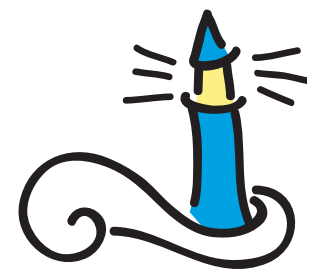
No phone number in the ad?  
GO TO **fogster.com**  
for contact information

**Pet Of The Week**

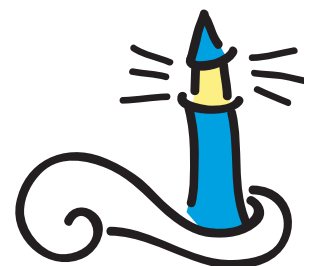


**Laffy Taffy**

Taffy is a 2-year-old, spayed female American Pit Bull who loves people and needs a home with an experienced dog owner. Taffy does not like cats and she may need to be in a one-dog household. Taffy is smart and playful. The SPCA wants her to find the perfect home so her adoption will require an application and a home visit. For more information about Taffy, visit her at the Tri-Valley SPCA, 4651 Gleason Drive, Dublin, open from 1 to 8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Call 479-9670. Visit [www.eastbayspca.org](http://www.eastbayspca.org) for more information about Taffy and to learn about Pit Bull Hall, an adoption and education effort jointly operated by the East Bay SPCA and BAD RAP (Bay Area Dog-lovers Responsible About Pit Bulls).



**fogster.com**



# Dining Out

## American

### Vic's All Star Kitchen

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

### Bridges

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

## Asian-Pacific

### Mahalo Grille

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

## Barbecue

### Red Smoke Grill

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

## Brewpub/Alehouse

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

470 Market Place, San Ramon, 277-9600. Featuring a giant 8-foot projection screen for major sporting events, they also feature 30 beers on tap and a great grill.

## 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. [staceysatwaterford.com](http://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](http://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 specials using fresh ingredients and spices that make traditional northern Chinese cuisine such a delight. Open for lunch Monday through Friday, dinner Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday. A private banquet room is available. Visit [www.pandapleasanton.com](http://www.pandapleasanton.com).

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

## Italian

### Fontina Ristorante

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

### 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, ppinach 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

(continued on page 24)



**Pleasanton Weekly's BEST OF PLEASANTON 2006**



4501 Hopyard Rd, Pleasanton  
**734-0307**  
Open daily from 11am  
[www.redsmokegrill.com](http://www.redsmokegrill.com)

**Voted Pleasanton Best Takeout**

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

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

**Sides**

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



Why go 'Downtown' ....  
When you can go 'Uptown'

# Girasole

## GRILL

"Fresh Italian with a California Attitude"

**Purchase Any Entrée And Receive A Complimentary Second Entrée**  
(Maximum Discount \$18.00)  
Not valid on holidays. No more than 2 coupons per party or 1 per family. Purchased entrée must be of equal or greater value than the complimentary entrée. One time use only and not valid with any other promotions. Dine in only, not valid for takeout. Expires 9/15/07. PW

*"All of us at Girasole pledge to bring you quality food prepared 'a la minute' in generous portions at a fair price." – Skip Hinsley*

3180 Santa Rita Rd.  
Pleasanton (925) 484-1001  
[www.girasolegrill.com](http://www.girasolegrill.com)



think it can't get any hotter this summer?  
mahalo grille celebrated our  
**2nd anniversary in june.**

look for **sizzling** summer deals the rest of  
july and august **going on now.....**

this weekend come down & try:  
our Tommy Bahama Sunset Rum-tini  
and Steak & Lobster or Fresh Swordfish!



425 Main Street  
Pleasanton, 94566  
(925) 462-2800  
reservations recommended



## CELEBRATE JULY

*with a visit to pastas trattoria.*

**GREAT JULY SPECIALS!!**

**Shellfish Risotto - Grilled Swordfish  
with Stone Ground Mustard Sauce -  
Grilled Salmon & Cajun Cream Sauce -  
Filet Mignon Oscar Style - Pastas Cioppino**

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT OUR  
GREAT LUNCH SPECIALS TOO!!**



*Pleasanton's Favorite Italian*  
405 MAIN STREET  
Pleasanton, 94566  
(925) 417-2222



## Dining Out

your Friday and Saturday evenings. The banquet facilities have wireless Internet for large parties, up to 70 guests.

### Japanese

#### Ume Sushi

4855 Hopyard Road #7 in Gateway Square, 734-0996. Acclaimed chef David Win brings delicious Japanese cuisine to Pleasanton at an affordable price! We have a daily fresh fish delivery, teriyaki and tempura. We are open Monday-Saturday, with lunch from 11:30-2:30 and dinner from 4:30-9:30, Saturday until 10 p.m. Party platters are available. Visit our Web site: [www.umesushi.com](http://www.umesushi.com).

#### 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](http://www.blueagaveclub.com).

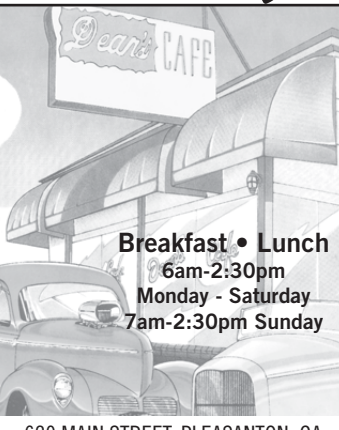
### Pizza

#### 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.

**Deans Cafe**  
House of Omelettes



**Breakfast • Lunch**  
6am-2:30pm  
Monday - Saturday  
7am-2:30pm Sunday

620 MAIN STREET, PLEASANTON, CA  
846-4222

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- Entertainment on Weekends
- Full Bar



475 Saint John, Pleasanton  
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### Savory Delights of Northern China

LUNCH SPECIALS: Monday-Friday 11:30-2:00

DINNER: Monday-Thursday 5:00-9:30

Friday & Saturday 5:00-10:00

Closed Sunday

PRIVATE BANQUET ROOM TAKE-OUT

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THE PANDA

### GAY NINETIES PIZZA CO.

Italian Style Spaghetti & Ravioli

Lunches • Dinners • Beers on Tap • Orders to Go

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Open 7 Days **288 Main Street • 846-2520**



### FONTINA Ristorante



- 3 New Specials Every Week
- Seasonal Menu

Pleasanton Weekly's  
**BEST OF PLEASANTON**  
2006

Kids eat free\*  
Monday & Tuesday

\*One free child meal (under 12 yrs) with one paying adult

925.462.9299

349 Main Street, Downtown Pleasanton • [www.fontinas.com](http://www.fontinas.com)

Come to Stacey's for some delicious seasonal food that will make you forget those corn dogs you ate at the Fair!



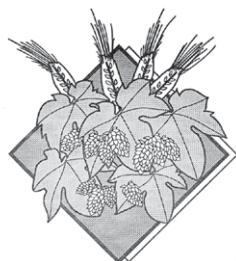
VOTED BEST COSMO by Diablo Magazine

Stacey's  
cafe

310 Main Street, Ste. A, Downtown Pleasanton

925-461-3113 Reservations

[www.staceyscafe.com](http://www.staceyscafe.com)



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AMERICAN ALEHOUSE & GRILL

Neighborhood Brewpub

30 BEERS ON TAP  
Huge Outdoor Patio!

Pleasanton Weekly's  
**BEST OF PLEASANTON**  
2006

Voted Best Place  
for an  
After-Work Drink

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"alta cocina mexicana"

"High-end" Mexican Cuisine

casual lunches • fine dining  
award-winning margaritas

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Reservations: 925.417.1224

[www.blueagaveclub.com](http://www.blueagaveclub.com)

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sugar shack  
...a sweet lil' clothing boutique

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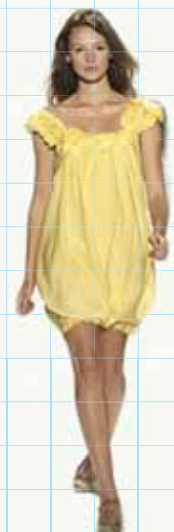
ann feriday



rebecca beeson

...And Lots of Denim!

details  
are the focus



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