

# PLEASANTON WEEKLY

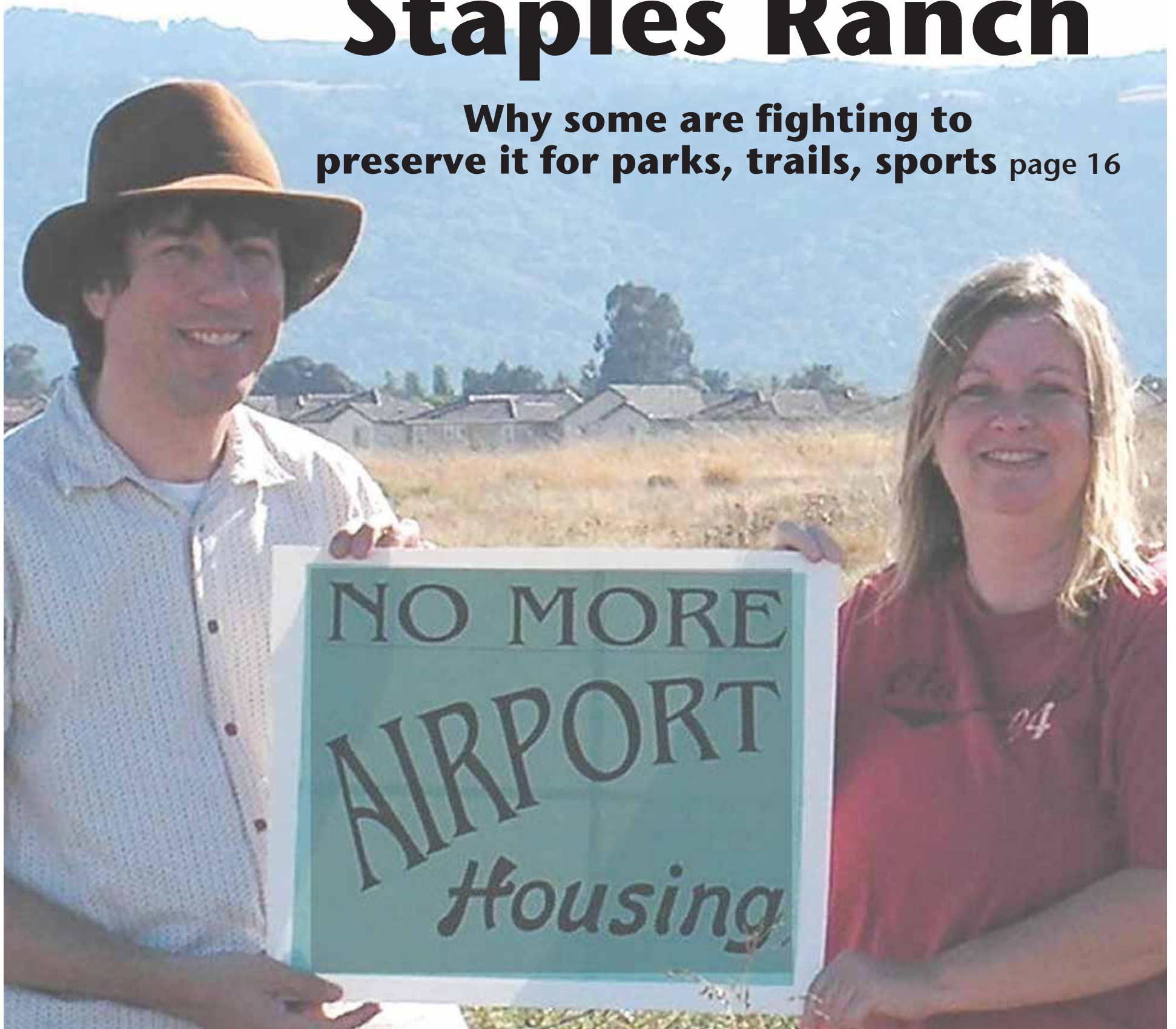
Vol. VIII, Number 27 • August 3, 2007

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It's all about Pleasanton

## Staples Ranch

Why some are fighting to  
preserve it for parks, trails, sports page 16



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**this week**

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# Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

## Baby wipes, cheap can openers for Iraq

If you see some of the city's Realtors stuffing their briefcases with some unusual purchases at local retailers—such as Mrs. Dash Seasoning, Hamburger Helper, baby wipes and cheap can openers—give them a salute instead of a stare. They're part of an effort by members of the Valley Marketing Association of Realtors and real estate professionals to send a large batch of supplies to the troops in Iraq. The campaign is being promoted by Stacey Kennedy, a partner and head of the Pacific Auction Exchange in Pleasanton. Her brother, Marine Staff Sgt. Aaron Belt, is in a place he calls "nowhere" about 90 miles north of Baghdad, where the temperature this month is ranging from a cool 121 degrees to a high of 130. Several times a month, a supply wagon rolls to the outpost Belt's platoon occupies, but the bridge between the supply depot and Belt was blown up recently and it will be another week before supplies arrive.

So Kennedy, who keeps in touch with her brother mostly by email and only when the system works put out a distress call to her associates. The first request about two months ago brought many boxes of supplies that Kennedy was able to send over to Belt's platoon and soldiers in other nearby outposts for \$8.95 a box regardless of weight. After her announcement, she left that May VMA meeting with \$450 in cash and checks from associates who asked her to do the shopping for them. The 40 flyers she brought were grabbed quickly, and she sent more out to nearly 100 who gave her their business cards. Many—how many she doesn't know—packed their own postal boxes and sent them off, which is why Sgt. Belt keeps hearing from the Pleasanton and Tri-Valley crowd so regularly.

Today, after its regular meeting, VMA President Roy Dronkers has asked Realtors to stay and help fill more boxes with supplies, saving Kennedy the time and effort. She's agreed to take all the boxes to the post office later today for their 1-1/2 week journey to "nowhere" in Iraq. At least Belt has an FPO mail-

ing address. Even with the help, Kennedy still gets cash and checks, some \$2,000 worth as of this morning. Besides the items mentioned above, Belt has messaged his sister that the troops need sunflower seeds, calf length Fruit of the Loom socks, 98 percent lean Hormel chicken, AA and AAA batteries, and a 5-gallon solar shower, which he says is available at Wal-Mart. I presume that is shipped empty of water. The list goes on and Kennedy would be happy to review it with you by email at stacy@alynnrock.com or by phone at 337-7767. She's also accepting supplies at her office at Pacific Auction Exchange, 5000 Hopyard Rd., Ste. 202, Pleasanton, CA 94588.

Speaking of Kennedy, she might be someone you want to meet. An Army veteran herself (we're both graduates of the Army Language School in Monterey, though in different years), she served for five years as a Spanish linguist in a number of military locations. Tired of the cold winters in the east, this personable 34-year-old veteran took a job teaching Spanish at Tracy High. Then 1-1/2 years ago, she started her own business—Pacific Auction Exchange. Although she's a Realtor, she's also a talented auctioneer who stands on front lawns of her clients' houses and sells them to the highest bidders. For the seller, there are no commissions or fees; she collects from the buyer. It's a new type of marketing hard-to-sell houses although this type of public auctioneering dates back a few generations to the failing farms of the Great Depression. This time, however, buyers usually come out winners. Last week, she handled a house in Oakland, "a real fixer-upper," she says, starting with a ridiculously low base price of \$349,000, and sold it to the high bidder for \$566,000 in less than 30 minutes. Some sell in just seven minutes, including a few of the more than 300 homes on the Antioch resale market right now.

Her favorite phrase: "I hear 3, is there at 3.5? I hear 4, I hear a \$566,000. Sold to the man with the hammer and saw in his hand."

**About the Cover** Matt Morrison and Anne Fox, co-sponsors of an initiative that would block most of the planned development on the unincorporated, 124-acre Staples Ranch, stand in the middle of Staples with houses in Pleasanton Meadows behind them. Morrison leads Friends of Pleasanton, a group that has started collecting signatures for a ballot referendum it's planning for November 2008. Photo courtesy of Matt Morrison. Cover design by Manuel Valenzuela. Vol. VIII. Number 27

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# Streetwise

**Q:** Should prisoners from California be sent to less-crowded facilities in other states to ease overcrowding here?

Asked Downtown



**Kenton Collins**  
Student

I think we should hire the convicts to build more prisons to ease the overcrowding issue. Letting them go free should not be an option.

**Laura Wanlin**

Student records administrator

If they are serving time for a crime they should have to serve out their sentence. Rather than be let out early they should be sent to out-of-state facilities.



**Joe Flaherty**

Financial Accountant

I would prefer that rather than have them let criminals out. They need to look at the sentencing structure as it is, maybe use other alternatives for lighter or non-violent crimes.

**Ruben Urias**

Retired

I think that they should not be turned loose. I think they should be sent out of state rather than go free.



**Lindi McGuiness**

Dental assistant

Without researching the issue, my instinct would be to send them to another prison versus setting them free.

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

# Newsfront

## News Digest

### Ask a doctor about women's health

TV30 and San Ramon Regional Medical center team up again for the award-winning "Ask the Doctor" live call-in program. Women's health is the topic of the next episode airing from 7 to 8 p.m. Aug. 8. Viewers can phone-in medical questions to Dr. Mark Lollar regarding pregnancy, infertility, PMS, menopause or any other gynecologic condition by calling 462-3030 during that time.

### Get a teddy ready for children in need

Knit This, Purl That is partnering with The Mother Bear Project to create knitted or crocheted teddy bears to send to children, primarily those suffering from HIV/AIDS in emerging nations. Owner Beth Spisak aims to send 100 bears to needy children by December. Those who want to help can join in bear-knitting sessions Wednesdays in August from 7 to 9 p.m. at the store, 205A Main St.

### Tour Livermore campus at Expo LPC

Las Positas College in Livermore, 3033 Collier Canyon Road, hosts Expo LPC 2007 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:20 p.m. Aug. 14. The event, which counts for half a unit, is a college orientation that includes a tour of the 147-acre campus; a preview to college life; college success strategies; an opportunity to meet faculty, staff and fellow students; food; and more. All new and re-entry students enrolled in six or more units are encouraged to register (PSCN 24, CRN#20955). Call Veronica Jennings, 424-1421.

### Chamber heads to China

The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce hosts "A Business Leaders Excursion to China," with the nine-day trip departing in November. The cost is \$1,499, due Sept. 1, which includes transportation, hotel accommodations, meals and a conference. To learn more, visit [www.pleasanton.org](http://www.pleasanton.org) and attend an orientation meeting at 5:30 p.m. Aug. 10 at the Larkspur Landing Hotel, 5535 Johnson Drive.

### Correction

The performers in the Concerts in the Park series, at 7 p.m. at Lions Wayside Park, are as follows: Tommy & the 4 Speeds, Aug. 3; Finding Stella, Aug. 10; La Ventana, Aug. 17; Magic Moments, Aug. 24; The Tom Rose Band, Aug. 31; Public Eye, Sept. 7.

## City seeks community relations manager

*New \$90,000 position created to achieve better contact with residents*

by Janet Pelletier

The city plans to create the new position of community relations manager, a move made to improve outreach with residents.

Pamela Ott, who is the city's economic development director, has taken on the role of public information officer for the past four years, but she said the time has come for someone to make that their sole responsibility as well as take on some new projects and further outreach in the community.

While some might ask why the city would need this type of position when a recent survey said 96 percent of residents are more than satisfied with Pleasanton, Ott said the job is not just

about spreading good news about Pleasanton, but about taking a larger role in communications.

"It's not really that traditional public relations sense where you need to get out positive messages. We do want to do that, but a large part of what we envision this person to be doing is sharing information with our community about the things that are happening," she said. "We recognize that with technology, there are lots of ways now for people to communicate. It's incredible the amount of emails the city receives overall on any given issue. Being able to have one point person in addition to any of our employees on our executive team in the city manager's office to create materials or be available to answer

questions is really important to share that information and give folks a place where they know that they can contact us as well."

The city put together an elaborate four-page job announcement that can be found on the city's Web site, [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us).

The community relations manager will report to Ott as well as City Manager Nelson Fialho. He or she will be responsible for managing the city's communication and outreach efforts, handle public relations and may act as a spokesperson to the media. They will also serve as a

(Continued on page 9)



Fermin Barrazam of National Rent-A-Fence removes the longstanding barrier from the perimeter of the Kottinger Creek Park Wednesday. The fence kept the newly-planted vegetation safe as it rooted.

## Kottinger Creek Park now officially open

*The fences protecting the newly planted vegetation came down Wednesday morning*

by Emily Atwood

Fences protecting newly-planted vegetation at Kottinger Creek Park were taken down last Wednesday, officially completing the seven-year restoration project started by the grassroots organization Friends of Kottinger Creek.

While the restoration work was completed in May, fences still lined the park to protect the newly planted, native grasses, plants, shrubs and trees. Now the 14.5-acre park includes a 1,820-

foot long creek is accessible to all residents.

It was Friends of Kottinger Creek who rallied the community to support this project after city maintenance workers cut down willow trees lining the meandering waterway.

At the heart of their plea was fixing work done to straighten the creek, which Friends member Cheri Puls said the group learned from the Urban Creek Council was typical practice in the 1960s and 1970s.

(Continued on page 9)

## Historical pulpit could be destroyed

*Museum On Main passed on donation, church looks for other takers*

by Rebecca Guyon

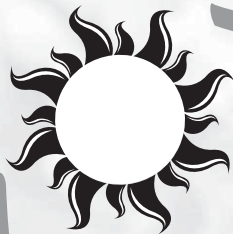
Everyone is certain the Lighthouse Baptist Church located at 118 Neal St. was built in 1876. What's up for debate is whether the church's pulpit was also built at that time or whether it was installed in the 1930s when the church underwent a remodel.

The question is of the utmost importance now because the church is remodeling its sanctuary once again, this time installing hardwood floors on the platform and getting rid of the pulpit all together. Not wanting this "landmark of the church," as Associate Pastor Jeremiah Blasi describes it, to end up in the junkyard, the church is hoping someone will want to take it, whether it's an individual or a historical organization.

(Continued on page 9)



The old pulpit from the Lighthouse Baptist Church currently sits outside while the sanctuary undergoes remodeling.



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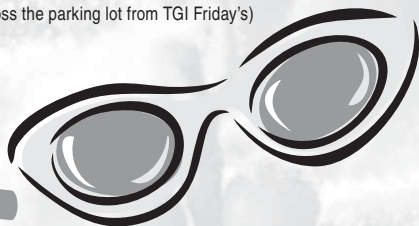
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## Home Depot meeting held to gather questions

*Concerns over traffic, closure of Johnson Drive store brought up*

by Janet Pelletier

City officials held a meeting last week regarding a controversial proposal for a second Home Depot in Pleasanton. The purpose was to gather questions the public had about the project, but much of the meeting consisted of comments from people wanting to air their concerns and dislikes of the plans. The home improvement chain is proposing to build a store on a 14.7-acre parcel at the intersection of Valley and Bernal avenues, across from the McDonald's shopping center.

About two dozen attended the hour and a half meeting that was led by city Planning Director Jerry Iserson. The project was put on hold after the City Council voted to approve it in mid-May. A second reading of the plans to formalize the vote was pulled back to allow city staff to research some lingering concerns brought up by residents.

They range from: an increase in traffic along Valley, what truck routes would be allowed, whether the current Pleasanton Home Depot on Johnson Drive will be financially stable and the site's 3-mile distance to the closest free-way entrance.

"I'm very concerned about blight," said Daryl Mullins at the July 25 meeting. "I don't want it to happen at Johnson Drive or at an empty big box."

Mullins suggested the city look into ways to insure that there would be a backup plan.

"I'm asking that you add a risk management plan," Mullins, who is a project manager and deals with risk management, said. "If we had that as part of this, it would be like an insurance policy."

Since the meeting was held to get feedback from different voices in the community, Iserson said in addition to noticing residents who live near the project site, the city invited local businesses that may be affected.

And at least a couple of businesses did come.

Matt Richert of Richert Hardware and Lumber on Sunol Boulevard said he will not only be affected by another home improvement store in town because of his competing business but also because he's a Pleasanton resident.

"Myself, I'm a double stakeholder here," he said.

Something he suggested the city research is what merchandise the Home Depot plans to sell and what range of services the store plans to offer to customers.

"If you build a Home Depot, it's really going to put an impact on other businesses," he said. "We've been fortunate the community has been really good to us" even

with an existing Home Depot in Pleasanton.

A man who said he works for Pleasanton Rentals said he too was interested in what types of services the new store would be offering, particularly what rentals they would have.

"Home Depot has tried rentals," he said. "I want to know if they want to expand into the rental market."

While some asked that questions be added to city staff's plate for research, others reiterated their disdain for a second Home Depot.

"It seems like we are trying so hard to fit a square peg into a round hole," said one woman. "We're so far down the line that it's like we have to make it fit. I want to know if there's any way to take a step back and see if something else could go there."

Iserson said staff will look into what other uses the site could have, but added that the city has tried unsuccessfully to court grocery stores in that location.

Nancy Allen, who is leading the Stop Pleasanton Gridlock citizens group, asked that the city conduct an independent market analysis of home improvement needs in addition to Home Depot's assessment.

"We can't depend on the vendor to give all the independent, objective data. We can't rely on that," she said.

Others raised questions about what routes trucks traveling to and from the store for deliveries would take.

"We have enough problems with traffic on First Street," said one man. "How are we going to enforce that? Right now, it's an absolute nightmare."

Richert added that while the city has said that trucks would get to the store from Livermore, he felt the city needs to get that put in writing from Livermore.

Iserson said the city could make a condition of approval for the project that trucks would have to adhere to specific routes.

Another man said that traditionally, Home Depot attracts day laborers looking for construction-type jobs, and wondered if the city needed to look into that issue should it happen.

The questions will be added to a list of those already documented by the city. Iserson said he hopes to return for another meeting to share the results of the research in a few weeks.

After the research is released, the city will schedule the proposal to go back to the City Council for final action. To view the list of questions, visit <http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/pdf/homedepot-070726-attach.pdf>. ■

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2nd Year Max Monthly Payment	\$1,728	\$1,358
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4th Year Max Monthly Payment	\$1,996	\$1,569
5th Year Max Monthly Payment	\$2,145	\$1,686

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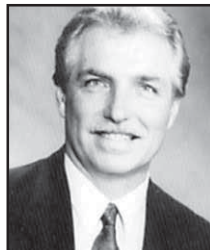
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# Two hundred vials of chickenpox vaccine unaccounted for

*Kaiser conducting internal investigation to find source*

by Tyler Bierbower

Two hundred vials of a chickenpox vaccine were reported missing July 20 from the Kaiser Permanente clinic in Pleasanton.

Kaiser employee Robert Vavuris reported the vials missing at 11 a.m.

The vials, valued at \$74 a piece, were first thought to have been stolen, but as the investigation has continued, officials say it looks

like a simple case of an inventory miscount. The total value of the missing vials is \$14,912.

Police officials and Kaiser have been conducting an internal investigation into the source of the missing vials.

"It's looking less and less like a theft and more and more like a miscount," said Kaiser spokeswoman Gerri Ginsburg.

The vials are kept in a refrigera-

tion device to keep them at a certain constant temperature. When the vials are removed from the refrigerator, they lose their effectiveness against the chickenpox virus.

"It needed to be refrigerated," said Ginsburg. "It really does not have any value if it was not refrigerated properly."

The vials contain .5 milliliters of Varicella made by the company Varivax. ■

## Business in Brief

### Blockbuster on Sunol Blvd. closed



Residents who live in southeast Pleasanton may have noticed that the Sunol Boulevard Blockbuster store in the Raley's shopping center has closed.

According to an employee at the Hopyard Road Blockbuster, the Sunol store closed three weeks ago due to a lack of business. Customers who have rental items from the Sunol location are asked to drop them off at the Hopyard store, 4747 Hopyard Road.

### Aloha Island on Main to shut its doors



Like a fairytale ending, the Aloha Island Trading Company will soon fade away into the sunset. The store's owners have decided to purchase over 50 acres of land in Hawaii and plan to move the shop's services back to its island roots. Located at 410 Main St., the store that sells all things Hawaiian was named the "Best Clothing Store" in 2006 by readers in the Pleasanton

Weekly's "Best of Pleasanton." To mark the closing, the store is offering deep discounts on its merchandise. For more information on Aloha Island, visit [www.alohaislandtradingcompany.com](http://www.alohaislandtradingcompany.com). To move into the store's place will be Murphy's Paw, a specialty, higher-end pet accessories store, owned by Pleasanton resident Melanie Sadek. Sadek said she will take possession of the property Sept. 1 and plans to open the store between mid-October and Nov. 1.

### Pleasanton Albertsons to become Lucky supermarket

Modesto-based Save Mart Supermarkets announced that it will bring back the Lucky supermarket brand to the Bay Area, including the Pleasanton store on West Las Positas Boulevard. Save Mart acquired 130 Albertsons stores earlier this year and exclusive rights to the Lucky name. In total, it will convert 72 stores in the bay to Lucky.

Lucky stores were rebranded in 1999.

"Bringing Lucky stores back to the Bay Area consumer is a great responsibility," said Bob Spengler, president of Save Mart. "Even after all these years, the Lucky name carries with it a great deal of consumer equity."

The changes to come with each store conversion are significant, Save Mart reports, but the aisles won't be rearranged. Save Mart will bring back many popular programs such as "Three's a Crowd" and the "Max Pack."

Stores will close for two days to convert and the work is scheduled to conclude by the end of September.

### Asbestos settlement made with Pleasanton company

A \$2.1 million settlement against several manufacturers and distributors of asbestos-containing products, including one based in Pleasanton, has been announced by Baron & Budd, the law firm representing the plaintiffs. On July 17, Kaiser Gypsum and Hanson Permanente (previously known as Kaiser Cement) settled with San Francisco resi-

dents John and Rita Dachauer.

John Dachauer, 69, worked as a plasterer from 1955-1997 and testified that he regularly used exterior stucco and joint compound products made and sold by Kaiser and Hanson. He sued both companies after a 2006 diagnosis of mesothelioma, a fatal form of cancer caused by exposure to asbestos.

### Simpson Manufacturing announces acquisition

Pleasanton-based Simpson Manufacturing has announced that its subsidiary Simpson Strong-Tie has acquired Swan Secure Products for \$43.5 million. Swan Secure manufactures and distributes stainless steel and other fasteners. Simpson Manufacturing, through its subsidiary, designs, engineers and is a leading manufacturer of wood-to-wood, wood-to-concrete and wood-to-masonry connectors and fasteners and pre-fabricated shearwalls.

### Thoratec gives update on product recall

Pleasanton-based Thoratec Corporation, which produces products to help treat cardiovascular disease, has updated information on a voluntary recall that began April 9 of all paracorporeal Ventricular Assist Devices (PVAD) manufactured and distributed prior to October 2006.

Thoratec voluntarily recalled the products after learning of continuing incorrect collet nut assembly during surgical implantation, which has in three cases resulted in severe bleeding and death.

Patients should immediately contact their doctor. According to Thoratec, hospitals were requested in the recall letter to check for proper cannulae connections on all patients currently on PVAD support. Thoratec notified its customers of the recall by letter on April 9 and is arranging for the application of conspicuous warning labels to all recalled product remaining in hospital inventory.

For information, call 1-800-456-1477.

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# Nineteen names added to the class of 2007

Students spent last six weeks working towards high school diploma



by Emily Atwood

While a flowing parade of caps and gowns are typically seen in June, 19 students completed the class of 2007 high school graduation requirements as they received diplomas or certificates last Friday in a summer school commencement ceremony.

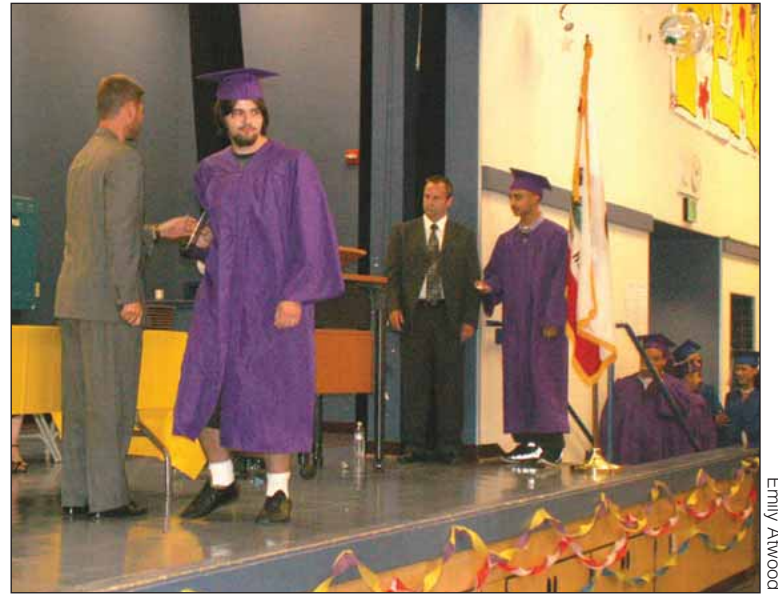
Lori Vella, principal of the summer school, said while the graduates probably didn't expect this delayed graduation ceremony when they entered high school, they are finishing and should be proud of the accomplishment.

To graduate, the students either completed needed units or have taken the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) at the last administration in May.

Vella continued her "better late than never" message to an audience of graduates, family members and friends, saying it was a lesson to apply in the future.

"Although it might take longer, stay focused and persevere and you will reach your goal," she said.

During the commencement address, Justine Lecco, a summer school graduate of Foothill High School, said she was disappointed upon learning she wouldn't partici-



Emily Atwood

Jim Ott gives graduates their diplomas at the summer school commencement.

pate in the June commencement. Yet, when the July ceremony took place she was just as proud.

"So what if it took six weeks longer?" she said, adding that she thought the summer school graduates worked harder than some of the June graduates.

School Board President Jim Ott was on hand to give out diplomas along with the new assistant superintendent of human resources, Bill Faraghan, who officially accepted the candidates' achievement.

After each graduate walked across the Hart Middle School multipurpose room stage to receive a diploma, they cheered "I graduated!" outside before being joined by family, friends and members of the school district in a cake and punch reception. ■

## Summer school graduates

- Chad Agustin, Foothill
- Tyler Balthrope, Village
- Elisabeth Barrantes, Foothill
- Casey Bowman, Amador Valley
- James Briseno, Amador Valley
- Rosario Carreon, Amador Valley
- Ryan Collins, Foothill
- Mitchell Elling, Foothill
- Rachelle Felix, Adult Education
- Janny Kim, Foothill
- Justine Lecco, Foothill
- Peilin Li, Amador Valley
- John McTheny, Village
- Luis Morales, Village
- Jerry Santiesteban, Amador Valley
- Cassandra Saenz, Amador Valley
- George Vagues, Amador Valley
- Ryan Voegelé, Amador Valley
- David Webb, Amador Valley

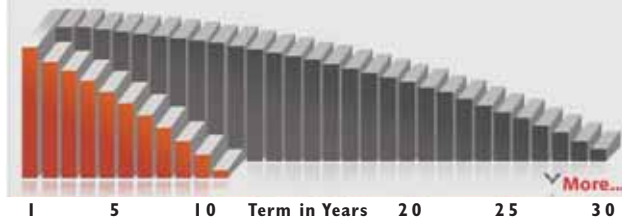


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Courtesy Ken Maxwell

The construction of Kottinger Creek included the restoration of the meandering waterway and native plants, which now make it self-sustaining.

### Kottinger

(Continued from page 5)

The group shared the acquired knowledge to others and garnered 450 signatures on a petition presented before the City Council.

According to Jim Kelcourse, senior civil engineer for the city, the restoration work included a completely new irrigation system to allow the creek and its surrounding vegetation to be self-sustaining. Along with a small foot bridge and small picnic area,

native plants were also added in place of the invasive species.

"It was a really great lesson in the value of democracy and the ability of people to affect that," Puls said.

The project was not without controversy as residents were concerned with the project's cost. The original maintenance cost (not part of the restoration plan) started at \$30,000 and ended with a \$1.2-million price tag.

Yet Kelcourse said it wasn't even the most pricey creek project in the city. Puls also added that the

price came from studies and didn't "go beyond the scope of work prescribed."

Now that the project is completed, Mayor Jennifer Hosterman said it shows the city's commitment to the environment.

"This project exemplifies Pleasanton's commitment to being a good steward of our community," said Mayor Jennifer Hosterman in a statement. "The return of the creek to a more natural setting sends a message that in Pleasanton we care about the long-term preservation of our environment." ■

### Spokesperson

(Continued from page 5)

city liaison to community television station and cable television franchisors such as TV30.

The position will pay \$90,684 and includes performance-based incentives, health benefits and membership in the PERS retirement system, among other perks. Ott said the salary is commensurate with what the city pays its employees who are in management-level positions.

"Our perspective was that we wanted to ensure that in hiring this person, we really were hiring a professional with some background and expertise in communications and outreach and so that's why the salary is what it is," she said.

According to Salary.com, the salary range for a community relations manager in the Pleasanton area is between \$61,000 and \$122,000, which would put the city's offering in the mid-range.

Ott said that the community relations manager would in some cases

act as a city spokesperson, but it's not clear yet what items he or she would be speaking to.

"There are certain topics where it might be more appropriate that the city manager be the spokesperson or our city attorney where it would involve legal matters versus another type of project that (the planning department) would be the best point of contact."

The city will accept applications through Aug. 17 and expects to name someone to the position by October. ■

### Pulpit

(Continued from page 5)

"We're hoping to find someone who will want to preserve it for what it is," said Pastor Bill Bryson.

The Museum On Main already passed on taking the pulpit for its collection because of the inability to pinpoint the installation date and the museum's lack of adequate storage space, said Jim Allen, former Museum On Main board president and the museum representative who assessed the pulpit.

"We think maybe it's the original, but it's a big piece and we couldn't find out, so it's too big for us to store," Allen said.

Right now, the pulpit sits outside the church, to the side and uncovered, which is why the church would like to find it a home as soon as possible, but at the very latest before winter when weather could cause damage, Bryson said. If no one steps up, the pulpit will have to be destroyed.

"This was the one thing that made us hesitant about the remodeling," Blasi said.

The church is currently looking



Rebecca Guyon

The old pulpit used to reside here, on the upper left side of the Lighthouse Baptist Church sanctuary.

for a new pulpit to be installed when the remodeling wraps up in the next three to four weeks, one that will look nice, without blocking the view of the platform.

While the church waits for someone to take an interest in the

platform, it also has people working to figure out the pulpit's age.

"Some folks are trying to dig it up," Bryson said.

Anyone interested in the pulpit can call the Lighthouse Baptist Church, 846-7220. ■

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## Pleasanton Real Estate News



by  
Gerarda  
Stocking

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# ValleyCare, UCSF join forces

New partnership to bring children's, women's health specialists to Tri-Valley

by Emily Atwood

ValleyCare Health System announced a new partnership with the University of California, San Francisco that would provide specialized pediatric and perinatal care to the Tri-Valley.

Sam Hawgood, physician in chief of UCSF's children's hospital, said everything fell into place about nine months ago when ValleyCare approached them. UCSF was looking to expand its services to the East Bay and beyond, making it easier for patients in these areas to see a specialist.

"There's a growing increase throughout the state [for pediatric and perinatal care]," he said. "There's really a national shortage of pediatric subspecialists."

In the beginning stages, UCSF hospitalists will work part-time at ValleyCare. They have planned to send pulmonary (lung), gastrointestinal, neurological, endocrinological, and diabetes specialists, but these could change as demands grow.

ValleyCare previously shared a pediatric hospitalist relationship with Children's Hospital of Oakland, which included a strategic plan that would make a community-based program in Pleasanton. Yet, as time went on Chief Operating Officer Cindy Noonan said the visions of both parties changed, which led them to look for another partnership.

Upon realizing the shared vision with UCSF, the partnership has a three phase strategic plan. The phases would include the implementation of added hospitalists and subspecialists with clinic hours. In the next three to five years, Noonan said they hope to have expanded pediatrics into a "hospital within a hospital." Phase three would take place in five to 10 years and would include a new building to house this expansion.

"We're very excited and are gearing up to get started," she said.

For emergency care, however, the children would still go to a children's hospital. ■

# East Bay Community Foundation names CEO

Former Stanford exec Nicole Taylor  
assumes role Sept. 4

by Janet Pelletier

After a lengthy search, the East Bay Community Foundation has named Nicole Taylor as its new president and chief executive officer.

The managing director of the Haas Center for Public Service at Stanford University will be the first black person to lead the foundation in its 79-year history, according to Spokesman John Pachtner.

"I am thrilled to be returning to the East Bay, a region I care passionately about," Taylor said. "I look forward to leading the foundation into a new era of leading change for the people of Alameda and Contra Costa counties."

Michael Dalby, chair of the foundation's board of directors, said he believes Taylor will elevate the foundation's visibility.

"Her knowledge of the challenges facing the East Bay, proven skills as a communicator and fundraiser, her connections in the local, state

and national worlds of philanthropy and her ability to forge important solutions with public-policy makers at every level make her the ideal person for the job," he said.

Taylor previously served as an executive at the foundation for nine years.

The foundation manages \$285 million in charitable funds for people, families, corporations and other organizations.

She succeeds Michael Howe, who left after 13 years in November.

Before her position at Stanford, Taylor was CEO at College Track, a nonprofit that gives scholarships to students. She will start work Sept. 4. ■



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Rebecca Guyon

### British artist flies to Pleasanton for Firehouse commission

Martin Donlin (left), an artist from East Sussex, England, discusses plans for a new piece of art he is creating for the Firehouse Art Center with Nancy and Gary Harrington, Pleasanton residents who donated funds to commission the piece. Donlin flew out to Pleasanton last week to see the Firehouse firsthand, speak with the architect and get a feel for the Pleasanton community. Although he does not have a preliminary design, he is planning on creating two large glass pieces with internal lighting that will be at the Firehouse's entrance and exit. The Harringtons chose Donlin for the commission after looking at samples of his work and Nancy Harrington said the couple was drawn to Donlin's abstract glass pieces that focus on clean lines and dramatic colors.

### Take Us Along



### Cut and paste

Participants at the California Stampin' & Scrapbooks Scrap Camp take a break from their four days of scrapbooking to read the Weekly. Why do we have a feeling this photo will find its way into a scrapbook?



### Weekly lounging

Alyssa, Barb, John, Michael, Katie, Jack and Juanita Young and Gary, Kathy, Ben and Mary Ann Spears enjoy lounging with the Weekly during a trip to Cancun, Mexico.

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### Weekly by the sea

Nancy and Paul Meglen read the Weekly by the Black Sea in Constanta, Romania.



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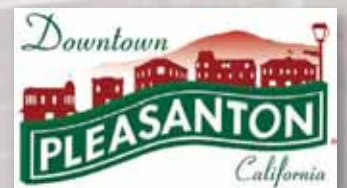
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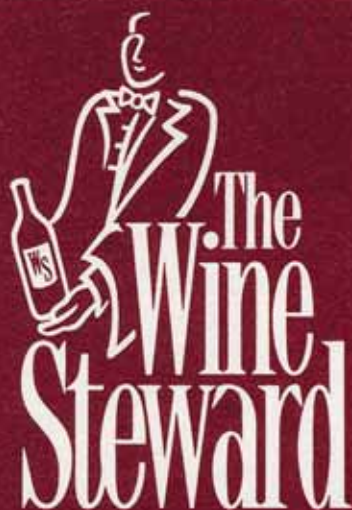
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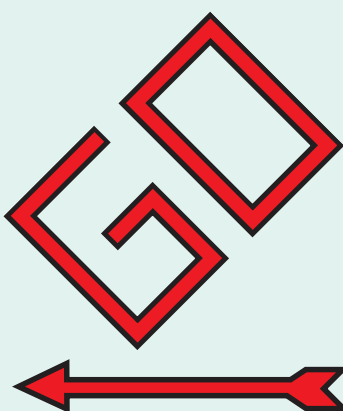
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# Staples Ranch

## Why some are fighting to preserve it for parks, trails, sports



Courtesy Hendrick Auto Group

Aerial view of 124-acre Staples Ranch looking southeast shows El Charro-I-580 Interchange at lower right. Staples Ranch, owned by Alameda County and unincorporated, is bordered by El Charro on the east, I-580 on the north, Pleasanton Meadows and homes in the Stoneridge Drive corridor on the west, and gravel companies on the south. It is designated as an airport protection zone because pilots generally take off from Livermore Airport and fly over Staples Ranch to avoid populated areas in Pleasanton.

by Jeb Bing

**A** group called Friends of Pleasanton started collecting signatures from registered voters this week in an effort to place an initiative on the November 2008 ballot that would block most planned development on Staples Ranch to preserve the 124-acre site for parks, open space and recreational use.

Anne Fox, chairwoman of the Pleasanton Planning Commission, and Matt Morrison, a local payroll tax analyst and member of the Sierra Club, are co-sponsors of the "Green Belt Initiative," which has become a controversial measure that some civic leaders and organizations, including the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, say could cost the city millions of dollars in lost tax revenue and up to 800 independent and assisted living apartments for senior citizens.

Morrison agreed that his initiative would cancel out, at least for now, the proposal by Continuing Life Communities for a private, for-profit senior care facility. He said, however, that his group changed its initiative to allow the Hendrick Automotive Group of Pleasanton to build a new auto mall at the far northeast corner of Staples Ranch. An earlier initiative filed by the Friends group would have barred that plan, too, Morrison said. But supporters, after meeting with

Hendrick executives, realized that the long-time Pleasanton dealer and community supporter had nowhere else to build the mall within the city limits and was under pressure from auto manufacturers to expand.

Morrison, Fox, former Planning Commission Chairman Brian Arkin and others have been successful so far in appealing to passersby at shopping centers to sign their new initiative, which would permit Hendrick to build on Staples. To qualify the measure for the ballot box, they must gain the signatures of at least 10 percent of the registered voters in the last (2006) municipal election, or about 3,600 signatures. To make sure they have enough signatures from actual registered voters, Morrison said the group plans to obtain more than 4,000 before submitting their paperwork to the Alameda County Registrar of Voters. They have six months from last Friday to file the documents.

Although they plan to place the initiative on the November 2008 ballot, when the presidential, congressional, state, local and school board elections are expected to generate a large voter turnout, they could also call a special election at anytime after their ballot measure is qualified. A special election would cost about \$200,000 with city taxpayers picking up the bill.

Morrison acknowledged that the Friends



City of Pleasanton

Artist's rendering of current development plan for Staples Ranch, showing homes along Palomino, Staples Ranch Road, West Las Positas and Stoneridge Drive. Rest of the site is outside of Pleasanton on land owned and controlled by Alameda County. At top right is proposed Hendrick Auto Group Mall; top middle, senior assisted and independent living facility; lower middle, four-sheet ice rink; bottom middle, community sports park. Photo courtesy City of Pleasanton.

group has a problem even if it obtains the necessary signatures, puts the measure on a ballot and then wins approval.

Staples Ranch is not part of Pleasanton, and the initiative would affect only property within the city limits. It would probably take a court ruling after the initiative receives voter approval to determine its impact on Alameda County, which owns the property.

"They're a bit late in trying to change the development agreement we have with the city of Pleasanton—the Memorandum

pendently. Fox lives in the Stoneridge Road corridor near Staples and Morrison lives just off West Las Positas, which ends at Staples and once was the main planned connector street through Pleasanton to Livermore.

Both watched as city officials entertained development proposals for Staples. In 1996, housing developer Kaufman and Broad, now KB Home, filed a plan to build 333 housing units on Staples—231 homes and 80 low-income, high-density smaller units that would back onto Interstate 580. The bid

Commission by then-Mayor Tom Pico in 2003, said the purpose of the initiative is to stop all development on Staples Ranch, except for the auto mall, until a citizens group can develop a plan for the east side of town.

Hers is not a new idea. The City Council announced plans for an East Side Specific Plan study in 1998 after voters rescinded the council's approval of a near 300-home housing development on the Busch property, where Ponderosa later won approval to build its 98-home community. In August

"This came as a result of the county and neighboring cities refusing to widen and improve Highway 84 between I-580 and I-680, which Pleasanton wants to see happen," Morrison said. "With the City Council now allowing Stoneridge Drive to be extended, it's likely we'll also see an effort to move forward to improve Highway 84."

But Morrison said he and the Sierra Club oppose widening Highway 84 because that would encourage urban sprawl.

Reflecting on this history of Staples Ranch, Morrison remembers floating down the Las Positas Creek on an inner tube before Staples Ranch was split into two and developed on the west side. Las Positas Creek has now been channeled underground, but the heritage trees and special grasses and uninterrupted vistas are still there and Morrison wants to see those preserved.

"We don't want to lose that beauty and this initiative will help to ensure that we don't," Morrison said.

Staples Ranch is one of the few underdeveloped large tracts of land available to Pleasanton. According to the agreement Pleasanton signed with Alameda County, the acreage would be developed with the auto mall, senior care facility and a four-rink ice skating and hockey arena, to be built by a subsidiary of the San Jose Sharks. Recently approved on a conceptual basis by the City Council, the ice rink would take part of the sports park, whose size has dwindled from 37 acres when it was going to be developed by KB Home, to 17 acres. There could still be lighted sports fields for baseball, football, lacrosse and tennis, although a specific plan has not been proposed.

It's the lack of a long-range, citizen-prepared development plan that has provoked Fox, Morrison and others to demand that all development plans for Staples Ranch, again except for the auto mall, be stopped. They want the council to re-commit to a citizens' study group for the east side and also want the bulk of Staples preserved for community activities, such as the council and voters have stipulated for the Bernal property.

The known history of Staples Ranch goes back to the mid-1800s when President Lincoln signed a presidential decree granting the land to Dolores Pacheco. Over the years, as California became a state and the cities of Livermore and Pleasanton were organized, Staples Ranch shrunk as roads, homes and the Livermore Airport were developed.

After World War II, Alameda County acquired Staples Ranch as a site for its "rehabilitation center," which is now the county jail in Dublin. Pleasanton tried to annex the land in 2001, but had no development plan or funds to buy the land from Alameda County, where the acreage is now priced at \$1 million an acre.

How to acquire Staples from the county is another unanswered question for the Friends of Pleasanton group if their initiative wins at the ballot box.

Supporters recall that the city of Pleasanton asked voters to approve a \$50-million bond issue to buy a part of the Bernal property in 2000, a bond issue that required a two-third majority vote in favor for approval. It lost by less than two percentage points.

"There's no reason we couldn't seek that approval again to acquire Staples Ranch," Morrison said. "After all, everyone is interested in doing what is best for Pleasanton, whether they support our initiative or not. We may have different views on how things should be done, but in the end we have the same objectives in mind: a better quality of life for our community.

For more information, visit the Friends of Pleasanton Web site at [www.friendsofpleasanton.org](http://www.friendsofpleasanton.org). For opposing views, visit the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce's Web site at [www.pleasanton.org/pleasantonfirst.htm](http://www.pleasanton.org/pleasantonfirst.htm). ■

## "This is no place to house our seniors."

—Anne Fox  
chairwoman of the Pleasanton Planning Commission

of Understanding, or MOU," said County Supervisor Scott Haggerty. "By November 2008, this project will be well under way."

Morrison doesn't think so, and even scoffs at worries by some opponents that the underdeveloped parcel could be annexed by Livermore if not developed entirely by the county of Alameda.

"We haven't seen any specific development plans at the city or county level and those take months, if not years, to finalize," he said. "As for Livermore, its mayor (Marshall Kamena) has already said he doesn't want the Continuing Life Communities facility on Staples, which is part of the airport protection zone for planes flying out of Livermore Airport. Besides, to annex the property, Livermore would have to amend its General Plan, get voter approval to extend its urban boundary line, win approval from LAFCO (the Alameda County Local Agency Formation Commission) and then hold the required municipal hearings before any building permits could be issued. That also could take years."

Morrison and Fox reached their decisions to do something to protect Staples Ranch inde-

would have rezoned 45 acres of the agricultural land for residential and another 34-37 acres for a sports park that KB Home would develop and give to the city.

Livermore opposed the plan because of its airport flight path and, later, the Pleasanton City Council refused to certify the Environmental Impact Report that KB needed to go forward. The EIR cited potentially excessive noise for the future residents, both from the freeway and planes taking off from Livermore Airport.

"When I recall that study and then look at the current city-county plan to allow 600-800 senior apartments on this same site, I have a problem," Fox said. "Livermore is increasing its airport operations and now projects 380,000 flight take-offs and landings a year by 2020. This is no place to house our seniors."

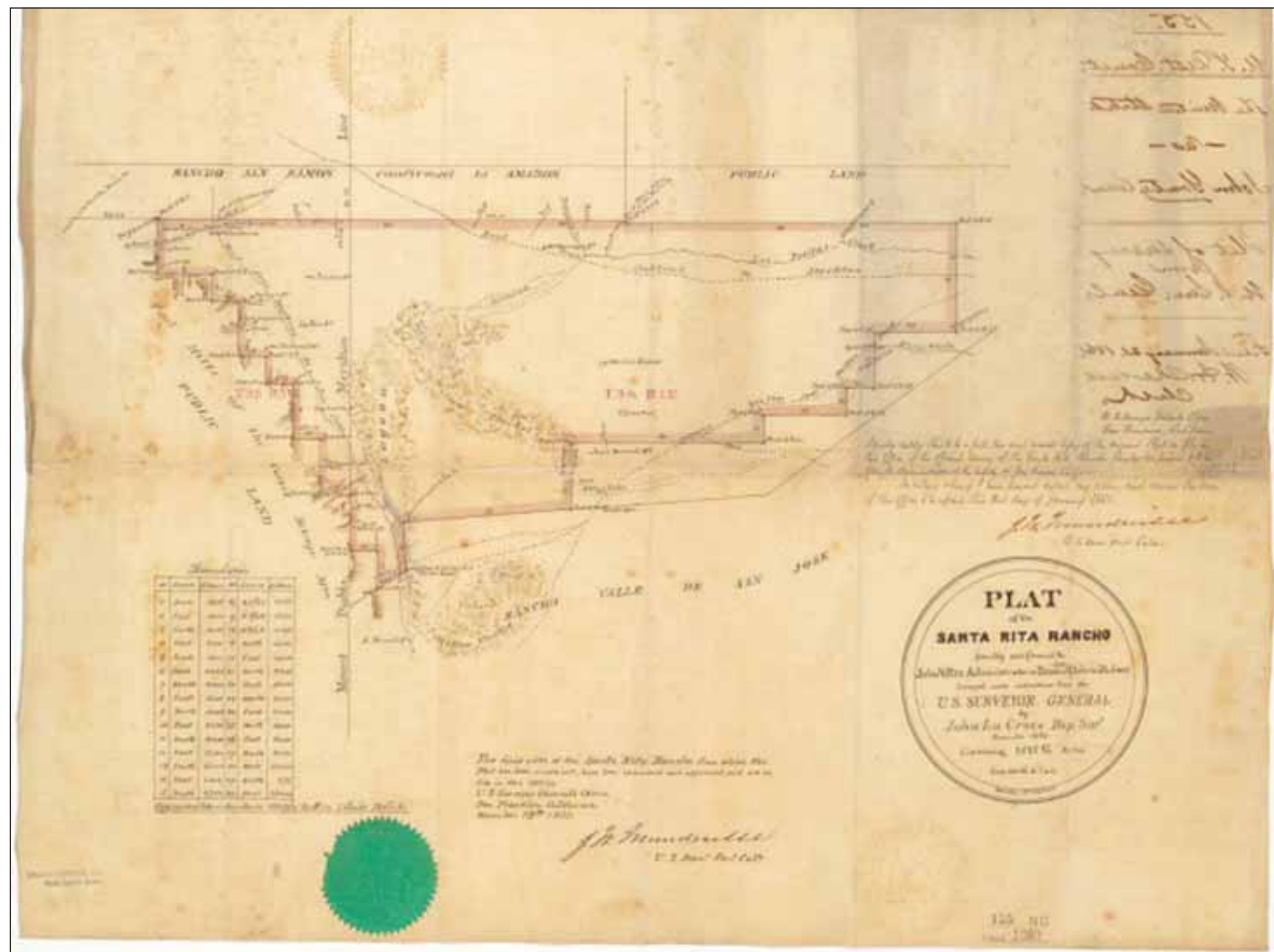
Instead, Fox wants Continuing Life Communities and the city to consider relocating the planned senior facility to a 20-acre site Ponderosa Homes' Ironwood community, a site where the Pleasanton school district recently cancelled its option to purchase.

Fox, who was appointed to the Planning

1998, the East Side Study Committee was formed with 80 percent of its members from the community and 20 percent representing developers. Interviews were conducted, and although Fox's husband Richard Pugh's application wasn't accepted, they joined others in a crowded City Council chamber a few months later for the kick-off ceremonies, only to hear the council vote to cancel the study until after its had completed work on acquisition, planning and development of the Bernal property.

In 2002, IKEA approached Pleasanton about building on Staples Ranch, but moved its bid to Dublin because of uncertainty here over Stoneridge Drive and east side planning. The Swedish home furnishings store later dropped its plans to build in Dublin.

Since then, most public debate has focused on extending Stoneridge Drive. Earlier this year, the council, whose members had been opposed to the extension, switched course and approved a county-city agreement that would keep the extension in the city's new General Plan and also allow it when regional traffic conditions proved more acceptable to Pleasanton.



Old parchment map shows what is believed to be an early land grant of Staples Ranch and surrounding properties to Jose Dolores Pacheco or Francisco Alvariso in mid-1800s. Courtesy of Matt Morrison.

Courtesy Friends of Pleasanton

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# Opinion

## Editorial

### Sale of RR corridor and a century of Southern Pacific history

At long last, the 15-year effort by Pleasanton to take control of the so-called transportation corridor through our downtown is coming to an end. In a deal brokered by Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and City Manager Nelson Fialho, Supervisor Scott Haggerty and the county Board of Supervisors have tentatively agreed to sell the 10-acre, eight-block-long strip of land to the city for a yet-to-be-disclosed price, but probably somewhat over \$6 million.

That was a price Haggerty mentioned at a Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce meeting last January. Alameda County bought the former railroad right-of-way from Southern Pacific Railway in 1989 after that railroad was merged into the Union Pacific. Freight trains that use to roll through the heart of downtown for most of the 20th century were mercifully moved to the Union Pacific tracks several blocks to the west. That move cleared up traffic problems on downtown streets, except for the crossing still at grade level on Santa Rita Road, where an underpass still needs to be added.

Haggerty is almost tearful when he talks about the intra-county transportation hopes that went with acquiring the right-of-way, hopes that are now dashed forever by the sale of the corridor to Pleasanton. He acknowledges that the corridor has had so many encroachments by developments being extended a bit too close to the right-of-way that to make uses of it today would be too costly. Although he couldn't talk the supervisors into giving the right-of-way to Pleasanton, although he wanted to, the price is a fair one that will reimburse the county for its purchase price and expenses.

Pleasanton has sought the corridor for years to help improve off-street parking needed by downtown businesses, their customers and their employees. Several blocks are used for parking now under a month-to-month lease agreement between the city and county. Now the loftier objectives of the Downtown Specific Plan can kick into place, with grading and paving scheduled for the corridor strips once the purchase is approved by both the county board and City Council, which is expected in early September. Also planned are bicycle and hiking trails so that both bikers and pedestrians can pass through the downtown between First and Main streets in a treed, park-like setting. Even the dirt section of the corridor behind Pleasanton Plaza and the weedy section north of Graham-Hitch Mortuary are slated for cosmetic improvement.

Of course, it's always sad to say goodbye to a bit of history. At one time, the Southern Pacific was a giant among railroads with its massive steam engines and thousands of miles of track accelerating the West's development, including Pleasanton's. By the 1970s, the rail line was a shadow of its former self. In 1975 there were a mere 123 cars, and Southern Pacific petitioned the government to abandon the line. The request was granted two years later and operations ended in 1978.

# Talking Points

by Gina Channell-Allen



## Who calls the shots?

*Editorial independence imperative to a newspaper's integrity*

I received a letter from a Pleasanton resident who read that the Pleasanton Weekly is obligated to run its editorials by the members of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce before publication and wondered if that was true.

Fortunately, it is not. The Pleasanton Weekly enjoys independence and editorial freedom from governmental and business influences. The only individuals who have to "sign off" on the editorial are the editor, Jeb Bing, and me.

A newspaper's editorial column is an article expressing the opinion of the editors and publishers. The way newspapers approach the creation of these opinion pieces is as varied as the different sizes and styles of newspapers in the world. At some newspapers, the editorial board, comprised of staffers with different roles in the newsroom and different backgrounds, will gather and discuss an issue, eventually arriving at the stance of the newspaper. The editorial page editor will draft the editorial based on that discussion for approval from the other board members. At other newspapers, the "editorial board" is comprised of the editor and a few reporters; some boards consist of the editor and publisher. Some boards meet and discuss the topic; others have the editor draft the column and the other board members approve or argue their points electronically.

Regardless of who does the

writing and how the discussions take place, the two most important points of an editorial are 1) it is the agreed upon stance of the newspaper and 2) it is free from influence of others outside the newsroom and the publisher's office.

These outside influences include government agencies and businesses—particularly advertisers of the newspaper. The American Society of Newspaper Editors' canon of ethics states that to be a newspaper of integrity, the publication must have "freedom from all obligations except fidelity to the public interest." This is crucial when "tough reporting" is necessary.

A case in point as to why this separation of the newsroom, the publication's advertisers—and even its advertising department—is important: In the late 1990s, I was at a daily newspaper in the Chicago area and there was a murder outside of a local carpet store. The owner of the store, Norm, an advertiser who spent thousands of dollars monthly with the publication, called and asked that we not report where the murder happened because it would reflect badly on the business. We refused the request because it was the public's right to know when and where the murder had occurred; and it was because of this that we reported that information in all the murder stories we had the unfortunate cause to publish.

Norm threatened to pull the advertising from the paper if we

didn't comply. He did pull his ads, albeit after several angry phone calls to the editors, the publisher and the advertising manager. He threatened to tell all his fellow businessmen that the newspaper did not support local business and they, too, should pull their advertising. There was angst, tension and pleas from the advertising department to kowtow to the advertiser's demands.

The advertising manager later said he would have lost all respect for our editorial department if we had given in to the advertiser's demands. (That admission, however, came after Norm decided it was hurting his business too much to be out of the paper and returned.)

Businesses and business people, and organizations such as chambers of commerce, contribute to a community in more than just a fiduciary manner. They are an integral part of the social setting and what happens, good or otherwise, is likely to be read with interest. However, it is imperative to keep advertisers at an arm's length for the times when the tough reporting, or a tough editorial, is necessary.

*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@pleasanton-weekly.com.*

anywhere at anytime.

*Maria Fitzpatrick, Pleasanton*

### Murals on Main Street

Artist Gary Winter recently completed the new mural on St. Mary Street (at Main Street) and I compliment Gary for this very nice piece of work. However, I have heard it called the first mural on Main Street. This is not actually correct and I would like to direct attention to the Mural at 818 Main St., which was completed to recognize Pleasanton's 75th Anniversary in 1969. The mural depicts the Pleasanton (Amador Valley) area 100 years earlier in 1869. This mural was completed as part of Pleasanton's Fiesta 75 celebration.

Then 25 years later, in 1994, the mural in Civic Park at the South end of Main Street was completed as part of Pleasanton's Centennial Celebration.

Since Gary's mural is not actually on Main Street, in all fairness we should probably also recognize the mural at the Meadowlark Dairy on W. Neal Street between Main Street and Railroad Avenue that clearly depicts Pleasanton's family farming history.

While not the "first mural,"

Gary's is still a very nice addition to our historic downtown.

*George Withers, Pleasanton*

### Initiatives don't meet seniors' needs

Dear Editor,

The two initiatives filed with the Pleasanton city clerk regarding Staples Ranch ignore an unmet need in the Valley. The Continuing Life Communities Community (CLC) planned for the Staples Ranch site is an attractive living alternative for valley residents or their parents who are more than 50 years of age. CLC's provide lifetime benefits for seniors as they age. This includes initial independent living, assistance with activities of daily living as may be needed later in life, and skilled nursing care if necessary.

Residents of CLCs decide their own future, rather than having someone else decide for them. They have the assurance of an appropriate living situation without the disruption of relocating from one community to another should a change of lifestyle be required. Aging in place provides peace of mind, not only for the individual,

(continued on page 20)

## Letters

### Be careful with your valuables

Dear Editor,

On July 13, I went to a discount retail store in Dublin with my sister and 2-year-old son whom I placed in the cart with my bag. They were reorganizing their shelves and some carts were blocking aisles like the toy section. The cart was a few steps away from me when I reached for a toy for my son. In those few seconds, someone stole my wallet. It was later found in Livermore, but the cash and green card were gone.

We learned later on that at least four pick pocketing instances had been reported recently in this store. We were told that it is not their responsibility to warn shoppers not to leave their bags in the carts. And I thought I was in a safe store. Times have changed and we really have to be careful with our valuables. I am sharing this so other moms and ladies would be more vigilant and be spared of what I went through. It certainly can happen to anyone,

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Letters

(continued from page 19)

but also for other family members who know the needs of their loved one are being met.

If you or your parents are interested in continuing to live in Pleasanton after retirement, you will want to learn about the CLC planned for the Staples Ranch property. Unfortunately, it can only move forward under the plan presented to the City of Pleasanton.

If you are asked to sign a petition to put the two initiatives on the ballot, just say, "no."

*Barbara Hempill, Pleasanton*

**Driver thanks passing motorist, Officer Dunn**

Dear Editor,

While driving with family on Valley Avenue, the car stalled leaving us in a dangerous situation. A passing motorist helped get the vehicle to a safe area. While waiting for a tow truck, Officer Dunn of the

Pleasanton Police arrived. He made sure everyone was OK. He left, but was back within minutes with bottled water for us. Our thanks to the unknown motorist and to Officer Dunn for being so helpful. It gives us pleasure knowing we live in a community with such caring people.

*Russell Emerson, Pleasanton*

**City parks shouldn't house ice arena**

Dear Editor,

Every city park should strive to preserve visually boundless areas. Park facilities for sports such as baseball, soccer, lacrosse, football, softball, jogging, swimming, BMX, in-line skating, kites, etc. all do not require solid walls, roofed buildings and heavy industrial electrical equipment. Ice arenas require all of this—none of which belongs in a city park. This type of venue should be erected within the confines of a light industrial zone, where buildings, equipment noise, and large electrical and ice making equipment are acceptable. If

the city wants to participate in a partnership with private enterprise to create and maintain ice facilities, great—but do not place this kind of complex in what is supposed to be an open-space recreational area.

Ice arenas require heavy-duty, electrically powered cooling equipment which must run 24/7, 365 days a year and will consume vast amounts of power. They also generate vast amounts of heat and emissions global warming contributions! The little league scoreboard at fields 5 and 6 at the sports park are solar-powered! That is the kind of equipment that is acceptable.

Please do not allow the ice complex to go forward on city park land. Please do create and maintain any facility that preserves open space. Please do create and maintain any facility where the only energy required is renewable. Please create and maintain any facility where the only heat generated is from active kids and adults enjoying sports and other activities in a beautiful outdoor space!

*Ron Dronkers, Pleasanton*

Guest Opinion

**How good does it get?**

by Cheryl Cook-Kallio

by Cheryl Cook-Kallio

As a teacher, I have taught the inner workings of government to thousands of students. I want my students to understand that in a participatory democracy, one must participate. I want them to know that service makes a difference in this country; and most of all that service is necessary, accessible and meaningful. As I reflect on the first seven months of my City Council term, I am in awe of the contributions of those who live and work here.



vettted through staff, which often causes them to go in multiple directions. I admire and appreciate those people who spend their lives behind the scenes working to provide electeds and the community with the necessary information to make well-informed decisions. We are privy to all of the questions and all of the answers, however discussion between the five of us occurs at the dais. During the public meeting, people are encouraged to participate, uninterrupted. Sometimes this is the most difficult. When advocating for one's position the big picture can be lost. The council's job is to see the big picture and we are elected to make decisions. I come away from the experience with a deep sense of how hard everyone has worked for whatever cause they viewed as important.

In a city that has just received the highest approval rating in anyone's memory, Pleasanton has many things of which to be proud. The council meetings are lengthy because people in Pleasanton love to be involved and participate. This creates a personal connection to the city government. We live in a wonderful place that we can attribute to the foresight of those who have served before us.

Few people ever find themselves doing what I get to do everyday. I live what I teach. I am modeling the behavior that I hope to instill in my students. I have had extraordinary opportunities in my life and right now I serve the people of Pleasanton. It makes me increasingly thankful for this opportunity and I love every minute of it.

*Cheryl Cook-Kallio, who is a 21-year resident of Pleasanton, was first elected to the City Council last November 2006. She teaches AP Government/We the People and AP U.S. History at Irvington High School in Fremont, where she just finished her 30th year.*

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[www.williamsteam.net/](http://www.williamsteam.net/) New On The Market & Beautiful, 4 BR/2.5 BA - \$1,165,000  
Danville, 2 BR/1.5 BA - \$559,900  
Dublin, 2 BR/2.5 BA - \$554,000  
Pleasanton, 2 BR/1.5 BA - \$399,960  
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**Pleasanton, 3 BR/2 BA**  
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San Ramon, 1 BR/1 BA - \$369000

San Ramon, 4 BR/3 BA - \$1,119,950  
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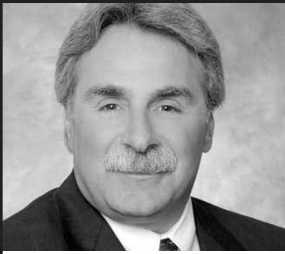
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**Pet of The Week**



**Big Dog**

This sweet natured Rottweiler mix named "Big Dog" has a big heart and a big appetite. He has an easy-going personality and he loves treats. Big Dog knows basic obedience and he enjoys being with people. He doesn't appear to be particularly bothered by other dogs. For more information about Big Dog (pet #71508), visit him at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive, Dublin, open daily 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 803-7040.

# Calendar

## Author Visits

**Authors of 'Sandworms of Dune'**  
Based directly on Frank Herbert's final outline, which lay hidden in a safe deposit box for a decade, Kevin Anderson and Brian Herbert will finally answer the urgent questions Dune fans have been debating for two decades in their latest work "Sandworms of Dune." The event will be held at Livermore's Public Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., from 7 to 9 p.m. Aug. 16.

**Herb Martinez Pinstriping Artist**  
Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., presents pinstriping artist Herb Martinez at 2 p.m. Aug. 12. Pinstriping is not limited to custom cars, you can pinstripe anything. Call 931-3405.

## Book Clubs

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

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

## Civic Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

**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.

## 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@mccler-mottcosta.com or (510) 599-8525, so we can send you details. Save the dates of Sept. 14 (mixer) and 15 (dinner/dancing).

## Classes

**Yoga Basics Class Offered**  
Beth Fox, certified yoga instructor, will teach a yoga basics class in Lynnewood United Methodist Church's multipurpose room, 4444 Black Ave., at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 6. The class is open to the public and is appropriate for all levels of experience. The cost is \$10 for general public; \$5 for people 55 and older. Call 846-0221 or visit www.lynnwood.org.

## Clubs

**Amador Valley Quilters**  
From 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Aug. 11, noted teacher and applique artist Sandra Mollon will be present at the Amador Valley Quilters meeting at Pleasanton Middle School. She will conduct a workshop the following day. Visit www.amadorvalleyquilters.org. none

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

**Good News Bears**  
Be a part of providing comfort to children and adults by giving stuffed animals. Good News Bears meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Livermore Police Station, 1110 S. Livermore Ave. Join us on the third Thursday of the month to see how you

## Weekend Preview



### "Go Figure!" showcase at the Tri-Valley SPCA

Figurative paintings by artists Gina Kaiper and Jim Schintter, such as this piece by Schintter titled "Jester" (above), are currently on display at the Tri-Valley SPCA Art Gallery, 4651 Gleason Drive, Dublin as part of the "Go Figure!" art show. The exhibit, sponsored by the Las Positas College Art Club, will run until August 25. Kaiper, a Pleasanton resident, and Schintter of Livermore have both taken art classes at Las Positas College. The SPCA Art Gallery is open from 1 to 8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday through Sunday.

can provide "stuffed love" in our community. Club dues are \$30 per year. Contact Jeanie Haigh at jhaigh@web-bearings.com or 373-7982.

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

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

**Toastmasters Meeting**  
Pleasanton Community Toastmasters invites you to our weekly meetings at the Recreation Center, 4530 Sandalwood Drive, at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Learn the art of

public speaking in a fun-filled, supportive environment. Call 828-2683 or visit pleasantontostmasters.com.

**TwinValley Mothers of Twins Meeting**  
Join us for our monthly Twin Valley Mother of Twins meeting, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at John Knox Presbyterian Church, 7421 Amarillo Road, Dublin. Membership is a mix of residents in and surrounding San Ramon/Dublin/Pleasanton. Our goal is to provide support, information and friendship to Mothers of Multiples. Roundtable question and answer time is at 6:30 p.m.; dads are encouraged to attend the roundtable. Call DeAnna at 948-0004 or visit www.tvmotc.com.

## Events

**"Day of Remembrance and Reflection" WWII**  
The highly decorated WWII aircraft carrier USS Hornet Museum will be supporting the History San Jose "Day of Remembrance and Reflection" about World War II from 1 to 4 p.m. August 12, at History Park, 1650 Senter Road, San Jose. Swinging Blue Stars singers, Swing Solution band, demonstrations, activities and exhibits for kids and families. Admission is free. Call (510) 521-8448 or visit www.hornetevents.com.

**Five Poets Laureate to Read**  
Pleasanton's new Poet Laureate, Martha Meltzer, will host an afternoon of poetry reading from 1 to 3 Aug. 5 at the Century House, 2401 Santa Rita Road. Guest poets will include previous Pleasanton poets Jim Ott (2001-

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2003), Kirk Ridgeway (2003-2005) and Cynthia Bryant (2005-2007) as well as Livermore poet Connie Post (2005-2009). An open mic segment will follow their readings. Tickets are \$5.00 or free for students with ID. Call 931-5350.

**Thomas Coyne Winery Opens New Tasting Room** Thomas Coyne Winery opens its new tasting room at noon Aug. 11 at Blacksmith Square, 25 South Livermore Ave, Livermore. Call Chris Doczy, 872-7481.

## Exhibits

**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.

**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.

**Pieces In Time: 90 Years of Quilts** "Pieces In Time: 90 years of Quilts," at the Museum on Main, 603 Main St., runs through Sept. 30. The display of 24 quilts made from 1885 to 1975 includes historic and patterned quilts owned by local residents. Museum hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tues. through Sat. and 1 to 4 p.m. Sun. Tickets are \$2 per person. Call 462-2766 or visit www.museumonmain.org.

## Fundraisers

**The Mother Bear Project** Knit This, Purl That owner Beth Spisak has a goal of sending 100 teddy bears to needy children by December. She seeks knitters and crocheters to participate by purchasing an inexpensive pattern from The Mother Bear Project and completing a bear by December. The group will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesdays in August at 205A Main St. and at various times until December. Call 249-9276 or visit www.yourknittingplace.com.

## Health

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

## Kids & Teens

**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.

**Free Karate Class** Balance Zone, 1047 Serpentine Lane #200, offers a free intro karate class. Call 339-0763 to reserve a spot.

**Vacation Bible School** St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, hosts Vacation Bible School, "Avalanche Ranch," from 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 8-10. It's for children age 4 to fifth grade. The cost is \$35 per child; \$30 for each additional sibling through July 27; or \$40 per child after July 27. Call 462-4802 or visit www.stclares-pleasanton.org.

## Lectures/ Workshops

**Market Research and the Marketing Plan** Tech Ventures presents the Market Research and the Marketing Plan from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Aug. 15 at CarrAmerica Conference Center, 4400 Rosewood Drive. This session discusses the significant endeavor in determining the market potential of a product. Call 960-1600 or visit www.techventures.org.

**Stressed Out?** Stress is the cause of 80-85 percent of all illness according to the AMA. It can affect your metabolism, body weight, cardiovascular system,

digestion, central nervous system, muscle function, and sleep. Join us as Dr. Lynne Sullivan shares ways to reduce or eliminate stress without addictive medication at 10 a.m. Aug. 14 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The cost is \$1.50 for residents and \$2 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

## Miscellaneous

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

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

## On Stage

**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.

**Grease** Diablo Light Opera Company's Stars 200, teen theater troupe, celebrates its 17th year with "Grease," the rock 'n' roll musical about Rydell High with its rebellious hot rod loving boys and wise cracking girls in pedal pushers and bobby sox. Show are held at the Diablo Valley College Performing Arts Center, 321 Golf Club Road, Pleasanton Hill at 8 p.m. July 27 and 28, Aug. 2, 3 and 4; and 2:30 p.m. July 29, Aug. 4 and 5. Tickets (\$10-15) are available at the box office, 1425 Gasoline Alley, Concord. Call 798-1300.

**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 hav-

ing to drive to San Francisco. The cost is \$7 plus a two item minimum. Visit www.laughalotproductions.com.

**Thoroughly Modern Mille** Thoroughly Modern Millie, the zany new 1920's musical that took Broadway by storm just a few years ago, comes to the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Set in New York City in 1922, full of intrigue and jazz--a time when women were entering the workforce and the rules of love and social behavior were changing forever. It opens July 20 and runs through Aug. 5. Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$28 for seniors, \$20 for juniors. Call (415) 568-8161 or visit www.pleasantonplayhouse.com.

## Seniors

**Computer Tutoring** One-on-one com-

puter 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.

**Computer Tutoring** One-on-one computer tutoring is available every weekday 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.

**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

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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 pleasanior@yahoo.com for details.

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

## Spiritual

**Peace Time** Meditate upon peace from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. the second Saturday of every month beginning June 9 at Downtown Yoga, 220-B Division St. The time of silent meditation will allow you to meditate upon your own peace of mind, peace in your home or peace in your world. All are welcome. Call 819-9983 or visit www.pleasantonyoga.com.

## Sports

**Lacrosse for 1st & 2nd Grade Boys** First and second grade boys play lacrosse, Monday night clinics and Saturday morning games, in July and

August at Hart Middle School. Training is provided by high school coaches and players. Helmets are provided. Call Rory Manley, 425-9198 or visit www.pleasantonlacrosse.com.

**Lake Chabot Mountain Ride** Join cyclists of all levels on this friendly, no drop mountain ride. Riders meet the Cyclepath group at 6 p.m. every Tuesday in August at Lake Chabot. We depart from the ranger station. Rides last approximately two hours. For directions visit www.cyclepath.com.

**PONY General Meeting** Pleasanton/Livermore Pony Baseball will hold its 2008 Tiger Baseball general meeting in August. All players ages 11-15 who are interested in participating in this program should attend this meeting. Pre-register at www.pleasantonpony.com.

**Sunday Morning Group Ride** Join cyclists of all levels on this friendly, no drop ride every Sunday. Riders depart at 9:00 a.m. from Cyclepath, 337-B Main St. Routes vary, but all rides last approximately two hours. Call 485-3218.

**TomatoBank Northern California Classic** The TomatoBank Northern California Classic will be held Aug. 20 to 23 at Ruby Hill Golf Club. The 54-hole stroke play event features 99-player fields composed of junior golfers, boys and girls, ages 12-18. For more information, please contact Tonya Oskarson (toskarson@ajga.org) in the AJGA Sponsorship Department at (770) 868-4200 or visit the AJGA Web site at ajga.org.

## Support Groups

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

**ClutterLess Self Help Group** Is clutter stressing you out? We are a Self Help support group for those with difficulty disposing of stuff. Cluttering is a psychological issue, not just an organizing issue. The group meets Mondays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Pleasanton Presbyterian Church Rm. 7, 4300 Mirador Drive. Call 846-5060 or visit www.clutterless.org. The group is free and \$2 to \$5 donation appreciated.

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

**Grief Share** Are you looking for community, understanding and support? If you have lost a spouse, child, family member or friend, you've probably found that there are not many people

who understand the deep hurt you feel. The grief support group meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. every Wednesday at Valley Christian Center, 7500 Inspiration Drive, Dublin. It is \$35.00, with scholarships available. Call 560-6202 or register at www.dublinvcc.org.

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

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

**Stress and Pain Management Strategies and Support** Learn how to use visualization, relaxation techniques and new ways of thinking (cognitive restructuring) to help reduce stress levels and down-regulate pain. Share experiences and ideas in a supportive, caring environment. Free classes are held from 11 a.m. to noon the first Wednesday of each month at ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite 270. Facilitated by Betty Runnels, M.A., Counseling Psychology, Marriage and Family Therapy. Call 734-3315 or email bettyrunnels@earthlink.net.

**Vision Support Group** Individuals with low vision, and their loved ones, are invited to join us on the third Tuesday of each month from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Join us for low vision information, speakers, resources, discussions, and day

trips. No reservations are required. Nominal fees may apply. Call 931-5369.

## Volunteering

**Meals on Wheels** Drivers needed to deliver meals to seniors in Pleasanton. The time commitment is two hours, once a week. Call Julie Antonelli at 931-5385.

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

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

## TV30

**Ask the Doctor** Women's Health is the topic for "Ask the Doctor," TV30's live call-in show at 7 p.m. Aug. 8. Viewers can phone in their questions for guest obstetrician/gynecologist Mark Lollar, M.D., by calling Channel 30 at 462-3030. Sponsored by San Ramon Regional Medical Center.

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# Dining Out

## American

**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).

tion screen for major sporting events, they also feature 30 beers on tap and a great grill. Go in for the beer, go back for the food. More at [www.hopyard.com](http://www.hopyard.com).

## California Cuisine

**Stacey's at Waterford**  
4500 Tassajara Road, Ste. C., Dublin, 551-8325. We serve seasonal California cuisine using the freshest ingredients, with delicious dishes including seafood, pasta, meat, wood fired pizza and even vegetarian choices. Available for special events on Sundays. Visit [www.staceysatwaterford.com](http://www.staceysatwaterford.com).

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

(continued on page 28)

**Now Open**



**OAK HOUSE**  
*Contemporary Asian Cuisine*

**Dinner Menu Sampler**

- Starters —
- Shangahi Lumpia \$8
- Oak House Spare Ribs \$9
- Salads —
- Oak House Salad \$9 • Tropical Salad \$8
- Entrees —
- Vietnamese Lemongrass Pork \$12
- Chinese Sea Bass \$21
- Roast Duck Chinois \$18
- Asian Marinated Filet Mignon \$25
- Roasted Vegetable Napoleon \$10
- Desserts —
- Copa Catalina \$8 • Exotic Sorbeto \$6

**OAK HOUSE**  
824 Main Street, Pleasanton  
925-485-5300

*You can find us at the corner of Ray and Main*

**OAK HOUSE JULY SPECIALS**

**Free Lunch Sandwich**  
Buy One Lunch Sandwich and get the Second Sandwich Free!  
*Of equal or lesser value.*  
Coupon cannot be combined with any other offer. Expires 8/17/07

**Early Bird Dinner**  
Dine with us between 5pm and 7pm enjoy a 15% discount on your evening's meal.  
Coupon cannot be combined with any other offer. Expires 8/17/07

**Complimentary Appetizer**  
(with minimum purchase of \$12 or more) choose from: Lumpia, Chicken Kabob, or Calamari  
Coupon cannot be combined with any other offer. Expires 8/17/07

**Closed Monday**  
Tuesday - Thursday  
11:30am - 2:30pm  
5:00pm - 9:00pm

Friday - Saturday  
11:30am - 2:30pm  
5:00pm - 10:00pm

Sunday 5:00pm - 9:00pm

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*Italian Style Spaghetti & Ravioli*

Lunches • Dinners • Beers on Tap • Orders to Go

Check out our new website at  
[www.gayninetiespizza.com](http://www.gayninetiespizza.com)

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





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Elegant banquet room and wine bar combination ideal for all your special occasions.

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RISTORANTE

• Catering Service  
• Take Out Menu

Garlic Di Pasta – same owner and same great food  
3037-G Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton (At Valley Ave in Hopyard Village)

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

**OFFER EXTENDED DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND**

summer's famous **\$55** dinner for two

Dine at either PASTAS TRATTORIA or MAHALO GRILLE and take advantage of this great offer, which includes:

**\*Offer extended thru August 22nd!**

**2 SMALL CAESAR SALADS**  
**2 SPECIALTY ENTRÉES**  
**1 DELICIOUS DESSERT**



\*cannot be combined with any other offers or promotions.



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(925) 462-2800  
reservations recommended



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405 MAIN STREET  
Pleasanton, 94566  
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## Dining Out



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Huge Outdoor Patio!

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**Sato**  
JAPANESE  
CUISINE

OWNER OPERATED FOR 25 YEARS  
MAKOTO SATO

Sushi Bar  
Tempura  
Teriyaki Sushi



In Hopyard Village Shopping Center  
3015-K Hopyard Rd.  
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**Chinese Szechuan**  
Szechuan Mandarin  
—No MSG—

**LUNCH SPECIALS**  
DINE IN  
FOOD TO GO

Banquet Room  
Available

Closed Mondays

*We also serve 'Brown Rice'*

3059 Hopyard Road #G  
Hopyard Village @ Valley  
Pleasanton  
**(925)846-5251**  
"Open Since 1987"

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.

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

**La Vite Ristorante**  
3037-G Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 485-4500. La Vite Ristorante was rated "A" by the Contra Costa Times restaurant critic and voted the best Italian restaurant by the readers of the Tri-Valley Herald. We're located off the beaten path of downtown Pleasanton in the Hopyard Village Shopping Center.

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

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

### Japanese

**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**  
625 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.

Add your 2 cents to

**Town Square**

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Kids eat free\*  
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\*One free child meal (under 12 yrs)  
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