

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

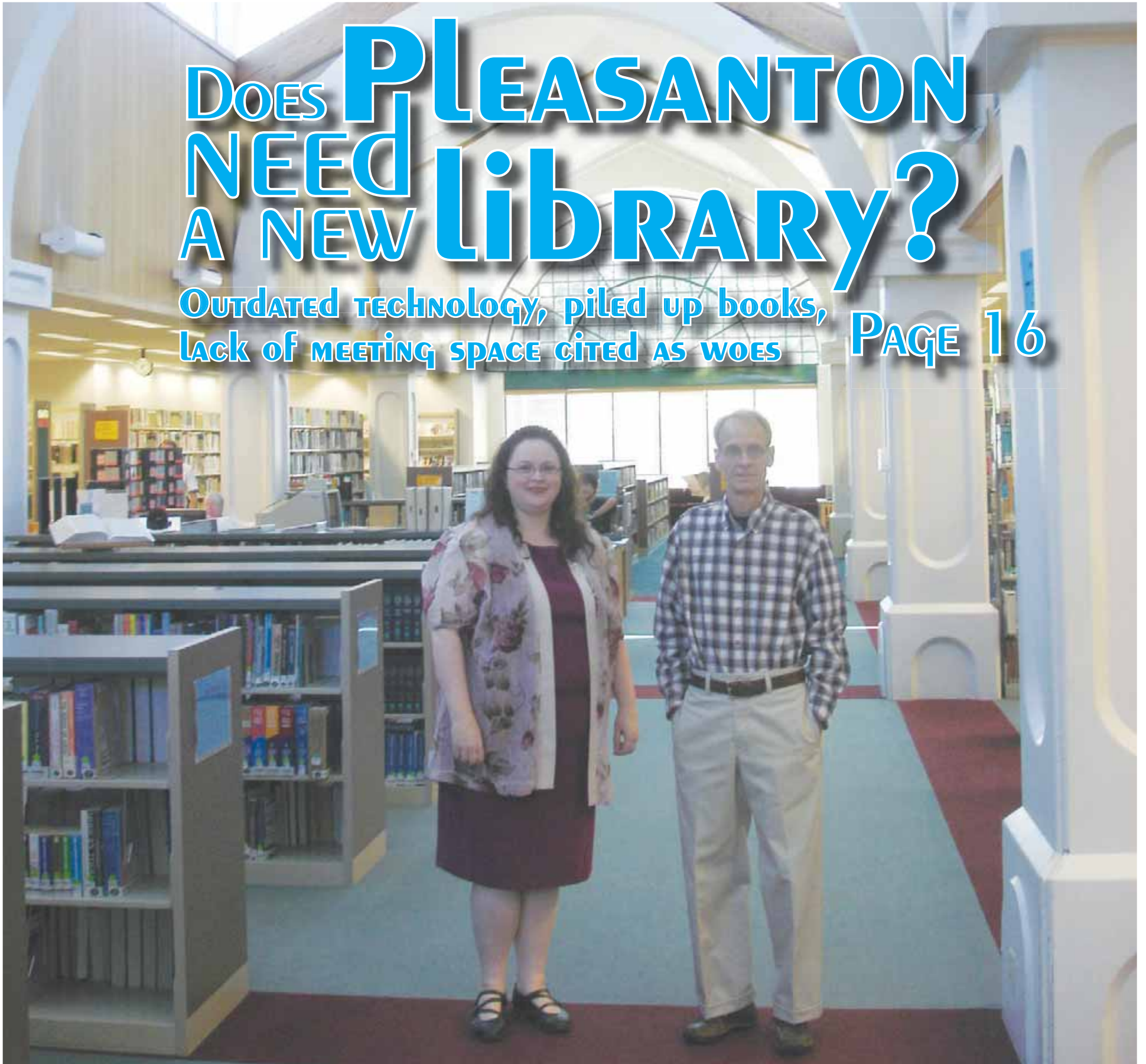
Vol. VIII, Number 29 • August 17, 2007

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It's all about Pleasanton

DOES PLEASANTON NEED A NEW LIBRARY?

OUTDATED TECHNOLOGY, piled up books,
Lack of MEETING SPACE CITED AS WOES **PAGE 16**



**INSIDE
this week**

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The city speaks

Nelson Fialho responds to editorial about city's PR job
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Stroke of history

Local artist depicts city landmarks in art show
Section 2

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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Cambodian trip makes donut makers glad they're here

When I think of Cambodia, good donut makers aren't the specialists I would identify with that country. Yet Sonny Svay and his wife Tina Sy are among the best with their tasty Heritage Donuts shop just a stone's throw from the Pleasanton Weekly, which makes it a quick and easy stop in the mornings. Donut making also wasn't something Sonny and Tina thought about either when they fled the killing fields of the Khmer Rouge regime in the late 1970s. Escaping alive with their parents in tow was their priority then, as they made their way out of the war-torn countryside to safety across the border into Thailand. In 1983, Sonny, a skilled machinist, found a job with a software manufacturer in Silicon Valley and was able to obtain work permits for the family to come to California.

Eventually, they settled in more affordable Tracy with Sonny commuting to the swing shift he worked from 3 to 11:30 p.m., a long drive but without traffic. Tina stayed home, helping to raise their two children, who are now grown, and to care for the grandparents. The good times ended five years ago when Sonny was laid off as his work was shifted to India. Traveling through Pleasanton, he had noticed Heritage Donuts and saw that it was for sale. Skilled bakers, Sonny and Tina decided to give it a try and their business continues to flourish at 5480 Sunol Blvd. among a string of retail and service businesses along the southern edge of the Oak Hill Shopping Center on Sunol Boulevard, which is anchored by Raley's supermarket.

Donut making is not an easy job and it's good that Sonny worked the swing shift. Except now he and Tina work early in the morning instead of late at night, leaving home between 1 and 2 a.m. for the drive to Pleasanton. Donuts have to

be fresh, so every morning while most of us are sleeping, they're mixing the dough from scratch and turning out 200-300 tasty donuts and other pastries ready for opening at 4 a.m. They give themselves a break on Saturdays and Sundays, opening the door at 5 a.m., but they work seven days a week serving commuters heading for I-680, students heading for Hearst and Pleasanton Middle schools, usually with their parents who often take a box of donuts home, and the weekend regulars that spend "leisure time" at Heritage Donuts.

A few weeks ago, the couple took their first break in the five years they've run the store, traveling back to their hometown in Cambodia with the cremated remains of Sonny's mother, who died last February. Although they found the country at peace, their small village of 300 residents outside of Battambang is still poor and lacking many of the basics most civilized countries now take for granted. There are no sewers, no clean running water, only one paved road, only a small market, and the town is infested with mosquitoes that require special netting in rooms where you're eating or over your bed.

Although only a few cousins remain in the small village, the whole town turned out for the special service at the Buddhist Temple to honor Sonny's mother as he placed her remains in the local mausoleum. Then Sonny and Tina said their goodbyes and caught a plane from Phnom Penh to return to what's now their real home, and their glad of it. With Sonny's parents both deceased and Tina's parents happy to stay in California, the couple says they'll probably never go back to Cambodia. The trip convinced them, though, that making donuts is a pretty good career. Like most retailers, they'd just like to have a few more customers. ■

About the Cover

Julie Farnsworth, library director, and Carl Cousineau, manager of library services, stand in the lobby area of the Pleasanton Library, located at the corner of Old Bernal and Bernal avenues, near City Hall. While the architecture of the building is striking, the library is outgrowing its facility in space. Plans to either renovate and expand the library or build a new library are slated to go before the City Council later this fall. Cover by Manuel Valenzuela.

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Streetwise

Q: Should Livermore Airport expand to allow more jet flights?

Asked Downtown



Jenny Underwood

Retired Teacher

My first impulse would be to say no. It wouldn't be fair to the homeowners in the area, unless they knew before purchase, that expansion of the airport was a definite possibility. There are options for jets at other airports in the East Bay.

Sharon Geier

Retired

Absolutely not. Jets make too much noise and there is already plenty of noise from Piper and other jets using the airport. The planes take off beginning at 8 a.m. and the noise ordinance seems to be rarely observed.



Jennifer Hied

Teacher

Currently, I don't hear much air traffic noise. A study of potential noise pollution would need to be done and if it did increase substantially, I would be against it.

Mike Powell

Administrator

I think there's enough noise pollution in the Bay Area; we don't need any more. Smaller airports, if they are going to accommodate jets, need to locate to outlying areas. Property values would be affected by an airport expansion in a negative way. Residential areas are supposed to be peaceful and quiet.



Chris Campos

General Contractor

I am for an expansion. This area is growing, as is the rest of the Bay Area. The larger airports will need help accommodating small jet flights. An expansion of the airport will attract business and "big business" people which helps the economy.

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Newsfront

News Digest

Fire department hosts disaster preparedness event

The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department invites the community to their second annual Disaster Preparedness Fair from 4 to 9 p.m. Aug. 23 at Carnegie Park, 2155 Third St., Livermore. Local organizations such as Red Cross, Boy Scouts of America, Contra Costa Animal Services and others will provide residents with information on how to care for themselves, families, pets and neighborhoods in the event of a disaster. Call 454-2315 for details.

School supply drive underway

Pleasanton chiropractor David De Bonis is sponsoring Ready for School, a school supply drive to benefit Shepherd's Gate women's and childrens shelter in Livermore. He will donate services in exchange for new backpacks and school supplies in August. Notebooks, folders, paper, pens, pencils, erasers, markers, crayons and glue will also be accepted at his office at 4625 First St., Ste. 100. Call 223-7143.

Live music performed on library lawn

Detroit band The High Strung, will join local favorites Posterboy in a live show at the Pleasanton Public Library lawn, 400 Old Bernal Ave., at 6 p.m. Aug. 18. The music is described as quirky, carefree and energetic. Call 931-3404 or visit www.ptownteenlib.blogspot.com.

Citizens' Police Academy enrollment is open

The fall 2007 session of the Pleasanton Police Department's Citizen Police Academy, running Sept. 6-Dec. 13, is now handling enrollment. These classes are taught by department personnel and covers topics like community policing, patrol procedures, radio communications, SWAT, narcotics investigations, crime prevention and more. The 14 segments meet from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursdays at the police department and is open to adults only. Call 931-5169 for more information.

School Board meetings resume

After a summer hiatus, the school board will hold a regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. Aug. 21 at the district office, 4665 Bernal Ave. Call 462-5500 or visit www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us.

Oak Grove project heads to City Council Sept. 4

After turned down by Planning Commission, plan for 51 homes and 500-acres of open space goes for approval

Expect a big crowd at the City Council Chambers on the evening of Sept. 4.

That's when a plan to construct 51 custom homes and dedicate nearly 500 acres of open space will go before the City Council for consideration.

The project was rejected by the Planning Commission July 27 in a

close 3-2 vote. The commission's recommendation to turn down the plan will be forwarded to the council, but the City Council will have the final say on whether it approves or disapproves.

It's a project that has been mired in controversy for years, a project that has been changed numerous times.

Once, it called for 98 homes and an 18-hole golf course, but after being met with large protests, it was scaled down to 51 custom lots. Still, the project is disliked by some residents who live near the site in the southeast hills, particu-

larly the neighborhoods of Grey Eagle Estates, Vintage Hills and Kottlinger Ranch.

Throughout the process, those affiliated with the Oak Grove project have sent glossy newsletters to supporters and residents who live near the project parameters, explaining why it will be a positive for Pleasanton.

A letter signed by project applicant Marty Inderbitzen and assistant Nan Leuschel was sent out Aug. 9:

"The time has come. After four years of environmental study, project design, community input

and compromise, the Pleasanton City Council will have a chance to approve the Oak Grove proposal for 51 custom lots and a 496-acre public nature preserve beginning on Sept. 4, 2007."

The letter goes on to encourage supporters to attend the meeting.

"The City Council needs to hear and see the broad support that Oak Grove enjoys. Without you, the City Council could hear only from a few, very vocal immediate neighbors who are anxious to complain about views from their back yards

(continued on page 9)



This group of ladies wore wine-themed costumes for last year's walk.

Women, men to don bras for breast cancer walk

Tri-Valley SOCKs hosts "Bras for the Cause" Moonlight Walk in downtown Pleasanton

by Janet Pelletier

Hundreds of women and men will toss their modesty aside and don glitzy, self-decorated bras all in the name of a cure for breast cancer.

They will parade down Main Street wearing their festooned lingerie for the "Bras for the Cause" Moonlight Walk on Sept. 29.

It's the second year for the walk, which was started by a few founders of the Tri-Valley chapter of SOCKs (Stepping Out for Cancer Kures).

"Our nonprofit raises money for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and we tried to think of something that would be fun and different to raise money," said Kathy Ellis, director of Tri-Valley SOCKs. "We've

done golf tournaments in the past and pretty much everybody does a golf tournament so we decided to do this walk and have something a little on the goofy side. Breast cancer walks can be sort of depressing and we do have our sad moments, but we also wanted to have something where the survivors could feel like they're celebrating surviving."

The silly affair shows a lighter side to the serious nature of breast cancer by having participants gather for bra decorating parties.

"Last year was kind of like Mardi Gras," Ellis said.

For last year's walk, the inaugural event, Ellis ventured to then-Police Chief Tim Neal's office. After Neal inquired why

(continued on page 7)

Weekly travels to North Dakota

Readers have now 'taken us along' to all 50 states

by Rebecca Guyon

Sure, it took more than seven years, but at long last the Weekly has finally traveled to North Dakota thanks to 20-year Pleasanton resident Brandt Esser, meaning the paper has visited all 50 states.

"There was an article in the paper that said the only state the Weekly hadn't visited is North Dakota, and I said, 'I can fix that,'" Esser said.

Esser, 47, submitted the photo of himself reading the Weekly in the badlands of North Dakota to be included in the "Take Us Along" column, which features Pleasanton residents reading the newspaper all over the world. The column started in 2001 when former Police Chief Tim Neal sent in a photo of himself reading the Weekly in New York City. Since then, more than 1,000 reader photos have been published and still a hundred more are waiting to run.

North Dakota was just one stop

on Esser's trip as he drove across the northern United States with friends Todd Tomich and Bill Brown. Their ultimate destination was Oshkosh, Wis. where they went to an air show. Esser heard of the air show from Tomich, who is a commercial pilot for Northwest Airlines. Although not an aviation aficionado, Esser said he was interested in going on the trip because it sounded like fun and he loves to travel.

"I'm always up for an adventure," said Esser, who works for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory as a buyer.

The trio passed through seven states in total including Idaho, South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana and Wyoming, stopping at landmarks, such as Mt. Rushmore and Little Bighorn, along the way.

While taking the photo in North Dakota, there were 30-mph winds blowing in 100-degree heat, which is why Esser said he's not surprised he's the first reader to visit the state. ■



A trip by Brandt Esser to North Dakota now means the Weekly's been to all 50 states.

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WEEKLY SPEAKER PROGRAM - NEW FRIENDS - VISIT US!



Jeb Bing

Work continues on restoring the old Kolln Hardware Store building at Main and Division streets, where a prankster posted a sign last weekend stating that Hooters Restaurant was "coming soon."

BART SERVICE ALERT!

Dublin/Pleasanton Station



Due to construction of a new BART station and parking in West Dublin,

BART's Dublin/Pleasanton Station will be closed temporarily on two weekends in August.

Saturday, August 11 from 6 a.m. until 1 p.m.
Sunday, August 12 from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m.

AND

Saturday, August 18 from 6 a.m. until 1 p.m.
Sunday, August 19 from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m.

FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE

A shuttle bus will be available to transport passengers from the Dublin/Pleasanton Station to our Castro Valley Station. The Dublin/Pleasanton Station will be closed until 12:15 p.m. when train service should resume. Buses will be available until 1 p.m.



We appreciate your patience with these service changes. The construction will result in a highly anticipated new station that will include development with 1,200 new parking spaces, 210 housing units, office space and a hotel. The station will be located in the median of I-580 between the Castro Valley and Dublin/Pleasanton stations where there is currently a 10-mile gap.

Thank you for riding BART.



No Hooters in downtown Pleasanton

Weekend banner posted on Kolln Building fence was work of prankster

by Jeb Bing

Anyone downtown last weekend probably did a double-take when they saw a sign on the fence of the old Kolln Hardware Store that is now being renovated. In very authentic company logo, the sign advertised Hooters as a new restaurant coming to town.

The banner indicated that Hooters planned to open a new restaurant in the Kolln Building, that applications were being accepted, and the phone number given was the Pleasanton Weekly's, 600-0840.

Sorry folks, it was a fake sign that was removed Monday morning. For Hooters aficionados, you'll

still have to go over to Dublin for "sight-seeing" at lunchtime. In the true spirit of Pleasanton's more conservative stance, there also were no job inquiries for Hooters jobs, which require waitresses to dress in somewhat abbreviated uniforms. At least here at the Weekly, we never got any calls.

As for the restoration work under way at the Kolln Building, Norman "Bud" Cornett, whose company, Peak Property Main Street, LLC, bought the building from the Kolln family in 2004, said work will be completed later this year with new tenants (not Hooters) moving in shortly afterward.

Located at the corner of Main and Division streets in the center of downtown Pleasanton, the Kolln building is one of the oldest on Main Street, second only to the Pleasanton Hotel, built in 1864. ■

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Tri-Valley Rotary hosts free family BBQ at vet hospital Saturday

Annual event honors Livermore Veterans Hospital residents

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. this Saturday, friends and family members of vets are invited to attend a barbecue honoring local veterans at the VA Hospital in Livermore.

Hosted by the Tri-Valley Rotary Club, the Annual Family Day BBQ will include tri-tip, chicken, hot dogs, veggie burgers and more.

The guests of honor for the day will be the military veterans who are in residence at the VA Hospital as well as their family and friends. Last year, between 200 and 300 attended and the same size crowd is expected this Saturday.

Livermore Poet Laureate Connie Post will read a tribute she wrote to

veterans called "Inside Honor."

This is the sixth year for the barbecue, supported by the Rotary club. The event is being funded by the Tri-Valley Rotary and a grant from Richard Parejo of Gould Electric in Pleasanton.

—Janet Pelletier

SOCKs

(continued from page 5)

the group wanted to have the walk at nighttime, she told him because it was unique. After she added that participants would be donning decorated bras, his jaw dropped.

Despite the potential embarrassment for men, Ellis said many forego their bashfulness and have a good time.

"I think it's a chance for them to walk on the wild side," she said, with a laugh.

And walkers take their intimate apparel seriously.

"It looked like the Electric Parade at Disneyland last year at night because a lot of people use battery-operated lights and really fun decorations," Ellis said.

But all kidding aside, the event raises a significant amount.

"Last year we raised \$84,000. We are hoping to raise a quarter of a million dollars this year," Ellis said.

A positive of the Tri-Valley SOCKs walk is that all of the money raised goes to the San Francisco chapter of the Susan G. Komen Foundation to be used locally, she said.

And walks like the "Bras for a Cause" aren't abundant, Ellis said, because the Susan G. Komen three-day walk was cancelled three years ago in San Francisco. She said the walk was competing with the Avon Walk, also held in San Francisco and the competition led to less participation. Now, the only Komen three-day in California is held in San Diego.

The walk will be limited to 600 participants this year and those who are interested can register on the SOCKs Web site, www.trivalleysocks.org. Registration is \$50. The walk begins at 7 p.m. on Sept. 29 at Amador Valley High School. The route travels down Main Street, through the Mission Hills neighborhood, up First Street and ends back at Amador. A pit stop location is at Lions Wayside Park when family members and friends are encouraged to cheer the walkers on. Those who can't or wish not to participate can donate to the walk, also on the Web site.

Decorated bra judging will take place a half hour before the walk begins.

This year's walk will be dedicated in memory of Rosalinda Church, the sister of Tri-Valley SOCKs member Chit Castro. Church passed away last month after a five-year battle with breast cancer. ■



Job Bing

Care packages for troops in Iraq

Realtor Stacey Kennedy (left) and Susan Diez start packing some of the 45 boxes sent to Kennedy's brother Marine Staff Sgt. Aaron Belt in Iraq. Kennedy, a partner and head of Pacific Auction Exchange in Pleasanton, gained the financial and buying help of the Valley Marketing Association of Realtors and real estate associates to send the care packages to Belt, a platoon leader whose unit is stationed in a remote part of Iraq far from any U.S. military supply center. Diez is with Times Up Termite and Pest Control in San Leandro and has joined Kennedy in sending packages to Belt and others. Packages contained items VMA members purchased, including sunscreen, socks, cans of Hormel chicken and sunflower seeds. Kennedy plans another mailing next month.



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From the East Coast to Pleasanton

A three-part series of a 10-year-old's experience moving from Connecticut

When Katie Lyness's dad was relocated to California, the family chose Pleasanton and loaded up a car to head west. Here Katie recounts her travel adventures and first impressions.

by Katie Lyness

Our last night in Wilton, Conn. was June 21. Most people who live on the East Coast plan on going to Bermuda or Florida or Maine during the summer. Not us! We are driving across the country from Wilton to Pleasanton, because we are moving.

We decided to drive across the country instead of taking a plane, because driving is safer for our pets. Daisy is a Siamese-ish cat; Orange is a tabby cat; Speckles is a calico cat; and Pixie is a black lab mix. They are all "rescues." Daisy is the prima donna, Orange has only one eye (his left eye has no pupil), Speckles is a scaredy cat, except with us, and Pixie is just the sweetest, big black and white dog.

We rented a giant SUV (a Yukon XL) for the trip and quickly filled it up with our family: my dad David, my mom Nancy, my sister Jenny who is 6, me and the pets. We also packed a lot of snacks that don't make crumbs (such as nuts, dried fruit and licorice), water bottles, cat litter and plenty of things to keep us busy, including books, beads, markers and DVDs.

My parents have each driven across the country before, but this is a first for Jenny and me and we are looking forward to getting to

California and seeing the middle of the United States along the way. Before this trip, we had really only been to a few places; New Jersey to visit my Aunt Susan and Ernie; New York to visit my 99-year-old Nana; occasionally to my mom's office in Manhattan; Orlando, Fla. to visit Disney World; and last year I went to Arizona to watch my grandpa, who is 70, play baseball in the National Men's Senior Baseball League.

Some of the things we are looking forward to are getting to know Pleasanton and San Francisco. My

and pizza in Pleasanton.

We are looking forward to those things but there are also some things we will miss. Jenny is going to miss Mrs. Lyons, her kindergarten teacher, most of all. Mrs. Lyons was also my kindergarten teacher, too, so I understand how Jenny feels. I am going to miss my friends and grandparents, riding my bike around with my next door neighbor Cooper, and our shower that has wall panels which spray water out of the sides of the walls. Pixie I think is going to miss playing with our next door neighbors three dogs. They are her best friends, and every single day, she sits on a chair, staring out the window, waiting for them to come outdoors to play.

None of us will miss the snow or being outdoors in the bitter cold, or having to wear heavy coats, boots, scarves and hats for so many months of the year. Snow is really only fun when it is falling, and for a few hours afterwards, before it gets all slushy and dirty. None of us will miss having to worry about deer ticks and catching Lyme Disease, and my mom also won't miss our septic system and well water, or the humidity, which makes her hair super-frizzy. My dad won't miss all of these things either, and he is also looking forward to giving up two acres of lawn and trees to maintain.

We are extremely excited to get started on our trip and as long as we all get to California alive, we'll be happy! ■



Katie Lyness (right) cozies up to sister Jenny and their dog Pixie on the cross-country drive.

mom was very happy, thrilled actually, to hear that all of her favorite stores (Wal-Mart, Kohl's, Payless Shoes and Borders) are all in the same shopping center and that dogs are welcome in the downtown as long as they don't go inside the stores. Also, my dad and I look forward to going to an Oakland A's game, even though I will always be a New York Mets fan, long distance. Jenny wants to go to the mall and buy stuff for her new room. She also wants to make sure they sell Polly Pockets (now recalled)

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Oak Grove

(continued from page 5)

and about the use of an existing, city-owned Emergency Vehicle Access (EVA) route through the gate-guarded Grey Eagle Estates.”

At the center of the debate on Oak Grove are the EVA route as well as the size and visibility of the custom homes on undeveloped ridgelines.

The homes were previously slated to be up to 18,000-square-feet, but Inderbitzen said he would make a concession to project opponents and limit the sizes to 12,500-square-feet.

But residents have said that that such large-scale homes would destroy their views and don't fit in with the neighborhood. Homes in

the areas surrounding Oak Grove are 3,000-4,000-square-feet in comparison, they've said.

Another criticism has been the integrity of visuals provided for the project. Some residents have said that computer images showing what the homes would look like on the ridgetops were taken with the wrong camera lens, and thus distort their depiction to the human eye.

If the project were built, it will be required to have an EVA route for fire and police personnel, one that project applicants propose will go through a city-owned easement in Grey Eagle Estates. Homeowners there have expressed concern that in an emergency, they could be held liable for any injuries.

The Oak Grove team, represented by Inderbitzen on behalf of Jennifer, Frederic and Kevin

Lin, who own the land, said they don't plan to make any changes to the project; it will be the same plans that went before the Planning Commission in July.

The Lin family also owns land in Dublin and Inderbitzen represented them at a joint workshop between the Dublin City Council and Planning Commission. The workshop was held on a proposal for a mixed-use development with a six-story hotel and spa, a 21-story residential complex and retail and office space, tentatively titled Grafton Plaza in northeastern Dublin.

The Pleasanton City Council meeting on Oak Grove begins at 7 p.m. Sept. 4 and will be held in the Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal Ave. ■

—Janet Pelletier

Take Us Along

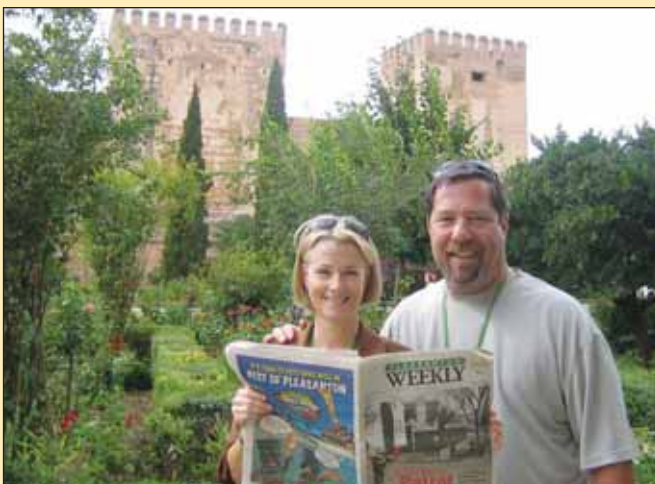


Roman holiday

Irene and Paschal Greene read the Weekly at the Roman Forum in Rome, Italy as they celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary with a 15-day trip that also included stops to Spain and France.

Weekly in Spain

Pam and David Alpert read the Weekly at Alhambra Palace in Granada, Spain.



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Opinion

Editorial

Escaping state sales tax hurts local businesses

This week, the Northern California Independent Booksellers Association (NCIBA) and the California Tax Reform Association (CTRA) urged the state's publicly elected tax board to begin collecting sales tax for online purchases from retailers that sell to Californians. In written comments submitted to the California Board of Equalization for inclusion in its "interested parties" meeting regarding the state's "tax gap," NCIBA and CTRA called for the board to "examine the failure to appropriately apply nexus rules" and recommended that the state participate in the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement, an inter-state initiative that simplifies sales taxes and promotes the equal tax treatment between local merchants and remote sellers.

Judy Wheeler, owner of Towne Center Books on Main Street, is urging the state to take this step. An independent store, Towne Center is open longer hours and every day of the week in an effort to stay profitable in face of severe competition—both from chain stores such as Border's and Wal-Mart and even more so from Amazon.com, which escapes the sales tax requirements businesses that operate in the state must pay. Those who waited patiently a few weeks ago to receive their pre-ordered "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" spent nearly \$3 in sales taxes for each copy. Those who ordered from Amazon.com or other out-of-state distributors likely got their books shipped free and with no sales tax added.

In its recent publication, "Addressing the Tax Gap," the California Board of Equalization examines the reasons for the gap between taxes owed and taxes paid, and how the BOE would work to solve this dilemma and reduce the gap. The report identifies remote sales as the biggest issue facing California, specifically because of "use tax" liabilities, which arise when taxable items are purchased for use in California and the sales tax is not collected by the seller and the purchaser does not pay a "use tax" on his or her state tax return. The BOE estimates that use tax liabilities amount to \$1.2 billion in unpaid taxes.

The plan to reduce the gap "involves identifying areas of non-compliance, and then using both new and traditional approaches to address those areas." The report concludes that "leveling the playing field by improving sales and use tax compliance will ensure that California retailers are not at a competitive disadvantage compared to out-of-state retailers." After the document was released, some in the California business community, mainly those with out-of-state distribution and direct order Web sites and facilities, voiced their objections to the report. After all, if you can shop around for the computer you want and then order it online with free shipping and no tax, it's not just the local computer retailer who suffers, it's the rest of us, too, whose taxes must pay more of the freight (no pun intended) of providing the services and government costs.

Besides the unfair competitive advantage that Wheeler's Towne Center Bookstore faces from out-of-state Web sites that fail to collect sales taxes on California book orders, the book business, itself, is in a slump. Preliminary figures recently released by the U.S. Census Bureau show a decline in retail sales at bookstores in June 2007 of 6.6 percent as compared to June 2006. This was the 12th month in a row that book sales failed to keep pace with the previous years' results. If we want to keep our downtown bookstore viable, customers must do more to help—at least by making sure that everyone who buys books pays their fair share of the California sales tax.

Letters

Others question city's PR job

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed your editorial ("Is this \$90,000 city PR job necessary?" Aug. 10) and was pleased to see that others question the validity of this position. And I am especially proud that you pointed out the bending benefits packages will be a problem in the coming years. Kudos.

Mary Heidenberger
Pleasanton

Initiative puts personal interest over Pleasanton's best interests

Dear Editor,

As Jeb Bing pointed out in his article on Staples Ranch (Cover Story, Aug. 3), both Anne Fox and Matt Morrison both just happen to live in the area affected by the proposed improvements. Their "initiative" is not about what is best for Pleasanton. Their "initiative" is a self interested, veiled attempt to block significant improvements and millions of dollars for Pleasanton because of the possible increase in traffic near their homes. I bet if these individuals did not live near Stoneridge Drive they would not be spearheading this initiative to hurt all of Pleasanton. Furthermore, as the article also pointed out, their "initiative" has no standing since it only applies to Pleasanton land and the land in question is owned by Alameda County! Put Pleasanton's best interests over a few individuals' personal interests and please do not sign this pointless, costly initiative!

Sharon Preston
Pleasanton

Do not sign 'Friends of Pleasanton' initiative

Dear Editor,

Alameda County and the city of

Pleasanton signed an agreement to develop the remaining 124 acres of county land called Staples Ranch. The agreement allows Hendrick Automotive Group to build a replacement Auto Mall site and requires that Pleasanton consider developing a senior continuing care community with up to 800 units supporting skilled nursing facilities, a 17-acre community park and future retail/office space with the provision that the land developments follow the normal review process.

I believe that the county is interested in the building projects because of the tax revenues they will generate for them. Likewise, Pleasanton residents benefit, too. Pleasanton will receive tax revenues to help pay for our city services and money needed to make our plans for the Bernal Park a reality. We will also gain by having an additional sports park and a senior care community. Plus, as part of the agreement, the county will fund some of the infrastructure improvements.

Those opposed to the development say they want to preserve the land for heritage trees, special grasses and uninterrupted vistas. They maintain that the senior development is too close to freeway and airport noise and that the road improvements will encourage urban sprawl. In response, consider the city park Pleasanton has planned for the Bernal property. The conditional county land addition is a special gift that will enable us to obtain additional parkland that we would otherwise not have. As far as the air and traffic noise, the experienced developers for the premier senior care community (www.continuinglife.com) certainly would not invest in the project without examining this issue thoroughly. Lastly, our city needs more road improvements to ease congestion. Pleasanton residents please do not sign the Friends of Pleasanton initiative.

Lisa Osterman
Pleasanton

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Guest Opinion

City manager clarifies asphalt plant, PR position costs

by Nelson Fialho

After reading the Aug. 10 editorial, "Is this \$90,000 city PR job necessary?", I feel that I need to clarify some facts for you:

In regards to Granite Asphalt Plant, you state that the taxpayers of Pleasanton will "pick up" the tab for a portion of its location. This is not an accurate statement. The source of funds do not come from tax-generated revenue but rather



a special grant provided to the city by Centex Homes—a housing developer in the Vineyard Corridor affected by the nearby asphalt plant. Because this developer and the city had a mutual interest in seeing the asphalt plant move to a more suitable location, Centex Homes placed \$500,000 in escrow at the time the project was approved by the City Council for the sole purpose of relocating the plant in the future. We are using these funds to relocate

the plant. Again, no taxpayer funds are being used for this purpose.

In regards to the new Public Information Officer position, it was not without extensive consideration that I decided to create this position. With a residential population of 68,000 and a daytime employee base of more than 56,000, there are quite a number of people with whom the city needs to communicate. As well, there are increasingly more outlets through which people expect to receive and share information, and it is my goal that the city be as timely and responsive as possible. This goes well beyond interfacing with your paper. It is at the core of our vision for the organization, which is to provide timely, accurate and thoughtful information to the public.

It is important that our residents are aware of all that the city is doing to sustain and enhance the quality of life we have come to enjoy in Pleasanton. The PIO will not only perform more traditional public information activities (e.g., developing a community newsletter, preparing media releases), but will also serve as a primary customer service contact for citizens with issues or concerns. The position will also administer the city's Web

site. While our department staff will continue to interface with the public as they do now, including interactions with you and your reporters, the PIO will support them in public outreach efforts so they have more time to devote to their respective departments' programs and services. Other cities, including our very own school district, have developed similar positions that function very effectively, adding value to the organization and the community.

By the way, the \$90,000 you cite is not the starting salary for the position; rather the starting range for the position is expected to be around \$72,000. Additionally, this position was reflected in the city's operating budget and was recommended by my office as a result of several reorganizations. There is no net change in the city's staffing structure as a result of this position.

Nelson Fialho, 39, was named City Manager of Pleasanton in October 2004. He joined city staff as assistant city manager in 1996 after 15 years of city management experience in Hayward and Campbell. He and his wife Jodie have three children and live in Pleasanton.

Talking Points

by Gina Channell-Allen



Nothing is black and white

Journalists employ various guidelines to determine whether to publish or not

The only thing black and white about the news business is black ink on white paper. But even then you have a lot of gray areas.

In February, The Pleasanton Weekly launched its improved Web site with a few interactive features. One of the most popular features has become the Community Calendar. Visitors can post their own items online, request publication in the newspaper and verify the accuracy of their own information before publication without dependence on newsroom personnel.

The one time newsroom personnel are involved is when the calendar item is approved for Web and/or print publication. This has been a source of many questions, particularly, "Why didn't my item appear?"

Newspapers provide a limited amount of space and Web site visitors have a limited amount of time. The Weekly's journalists have been charged with the difficult task of sifting through all sorts of calendar submissions to determine which are listed and which are rejected, using the basic rules

of journalism, and knowledge of the community and readers.

First to be rejected are submissions that are blatant advertising of goods and services for a profit because we want to reserve the space for nonprofit groups that can't afford to market their events/services. However, for-profit businesses have been allowed to post information on events if there is no charge (or a nominal charge to cover costs), no purchase necessary and the event fits a "news value" category. An example of this would be a bookstore that is having an author speak.

Editors use "news value" guidelines to decide placement of stories on a page and in the publication—whether a story will go on page 1 or 20. Editors also refer to news value when deciding which stories to cover and how. The basics for news judgment are impact (how many people will it affect?); proximity (is it close to home or affects people in Pleasanton?); currency (is this an issue or event people are talking about?); oddity (is it something unusual?); and timeli-

ness (when is it happening?).

However, nothing is black and white and every item must be judged on a case-by-case basis.

Space is not an issue on the Web site; however, we don't want to fill the Community Calendar with advertisements. And if one business is allowed to advertise, we certainly wouldn't be able to justify not running others. Eventually the calendar would be nothing but ads and it would stop being a valuable tool for nonprofit groups, fundraisers and the visitors who would like to attend those happenings.

Journalists view their work as being a matter of public service to provide community members with the news they need to know in order to go about their daily lives. To that end, we go to the "gray area" to make judgment calls often.

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

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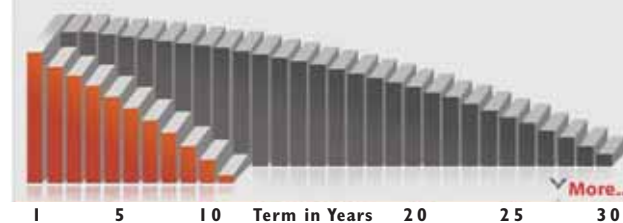
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- Best place to get a traffic ticket
- Best place to have a first date
- Best place to people watch
- Best Pleasanton real estate office
- Best tire store / service center
- Best tutoring school
- Best veterinarian
- Best video / DVD store

Specialty retail

- Best art gallery
- Best bicycle shop
- Best bookstore
- Best florist
- Best hobby / craft store
- Best health food store
- Best jewelry
- Best lingerie wear
- Best men's clothing store
- Best pet store
- Best place to buy a gift
- Best place to buy athletic equipment
- Best place to buy a musical instrument
- Best place to buy cookware
- Best toy store
- Best wine store
- Best women's clothing store

Personal care and pampering

- Best acupuncture
- Best dry cleaner
- Best hair salon for women
- Best hair salon for men

- Best manicure/pedicure
- Best massage
- Best medical spa

Epicure

- Best American Food Restaurant
- Best "assemble your own" meal store
- Best atmosphere
- Best bakery
- Best barbecue
- Best burger
- Best breakfast
- Best burrito
- Best Chinese restaurant
- Best french fries
- Best French restaurant
- Best ice cream/yogurt Shop
- Best independent coffee house
- Best Indian restaurant
- Best Italian restaurant
- Best Japanese/Sushi restaurant
- Best kid-friendly, non chain restaurant
- Best Main Street restaurant
- Best margarita
- Best meal under \$20
- Best Mediterranean/Middle Eastern restaurant
- Best Mexican restaurant
- Best outdoor dining
- Best pizza
- Best place for a business lunch
- Best romantic restaurant
- Best seafood restaurant
- Best steakhouse
- Best takeout
- Best Thai restaurant
- Best winery

Let's Get Physical

- Best bike or walking trail
- Best health club
- Best martial arts studio
- Best place to jog

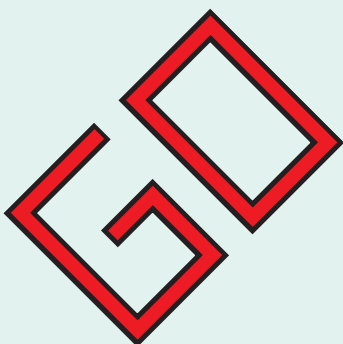
- Best place to walk a dog
- Best yoga / pilates

At home

- Best antiques store
- Best carpet cleaners
- Best carpet store
- Best consignment shop
- Best flooring store
- Best hardware store
- Best handyman
- Best home consignment store
- Best home furnishings
- Best kitchen/bath remodeler
- Best landscaper / designer
- Best outdoor/patio furniture store
- Best plumber
- Best pool service
- Best roofer

Stepping Out

- Best place for a picnic
- Best place for an after-work drink
- Best place for dancing
- Best place for live music
- Best place to get together with friends
- Best place to meet new people
- Best theater company



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Transitions

Obituaries

Jack Oliver

Jack Oliver, known around the Tri-Valley for his involvement in Tri-Valley Community Television CTV 30, died Aug. 7 at the age of 90.

Born April 3, 1917, Mr. Oliver had an early interest in film. In 1934, he made his own 35mm movie camera and used it to film Tracy's Frontier Days, a film which pre-viewed at the Grand Theater in Tracy. His interest in photography led him to pursue this passion in a variety of forms for the rest of his life.

As a Navy airman veteran of two wars (WWII and Korea), he survived three aircraft accidents.



He was a radio/radar operator on the first radar-equipped TBMs. After Korea, he joined Livermore National Lab in 1952. At the lab, he operated high-speed photographic equipment; later he maintained the early high speed computers.

After retiring from the lab, he restored and installed theater pipe organs, one in his home, and many throughout the Bay Area. Turning to his photographic and electronic wizardry, he began using video cameras to record the organ restoration process. This expertise then led him to a three-decades—long and rewarding second post-retirement career at CTV 30 as its chief (and only) engineer.

While at CTV 30, he acted as a generous benefactor with personal donations of broadcast quality capabilities, making possible the first live news broadcast by a public television station. With his technological and electronic capabilities, the local channel went from a single one-half hour program in 1976 to three channels of programming devoted to the Tri-Valley. To help bring even more local news to the Valley, he created a mobile studio that recorded city council meetings and major events. During his time at CTV, he helped launch many careers in editing and reporting via the Regional Occupational Program. Retiring yet again, he then partnered with Darla Stevens and

together they provided a streaming-on-demand service for various public meetings. His love for technology and his strong intellectual curiosity kept him busy with this new career until a few days before his passing.

His family is tremendously proud of Mr. Oliver's accomplishments and service to his community. He was truly one-of-a-kind; a loving father and grandfather, a mentor and inspiration to several generations, both at the lab and throughout his public service. He was kind, unassuming, patient, witty, and cherished by all who knew him. He will be greatly missed.

Mr. Oliver is survived by his children: Sterling C. Oliver and wife Sue, Buckley G. Oliver, and Suann L. Shumaker and husband Dan; grandchildren Debra Stokes, Thomas Oliver, Erik Shumaker and wife Heather, Michelle Oliver, and Gregory Oliver; three great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Bette Oliver.

For more information about his intriguing life and achievements go to www.geocities.com/danshangar/JackOliver.

A memorial service will be held at Callaghan Mortuary, 3833 East Ave., Livermore, today at 1 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Hope Hospice, 6500 Dublin Blvd., Suite 100, Dublin, CA 94568, in memory of Jack Oliver.



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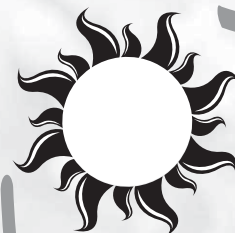
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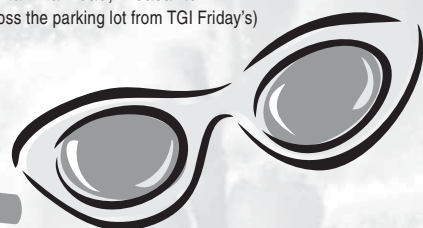
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Community Pulse



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Police Bulletin

Teen burglary suspect arrested

A 16-year-old Pleasanton boy was arrested Tuesday night after a botched residential burglary in the 4600 block of Lakewood Street, police said. The suspect told police that he was trying to steal a letter that he believed the resident's teenage daughter had.

The resident came home around 9:45 that evening and saw someone moving inside his home. Police surrounded the home and after a warning, Officer Dave Batoy sent police K-9 Kai inside to search for the subject.

As the search began, officers saw the suspect try to escape through a back window. Seeing officers wait for him, the suspect ran back inside towards the dog. The suspect was bitten on his shoulder and ankle. He was arrested for residential burglary, booked and released to his parents.

Apartment storage burglarized

Three tires and wheels were stolen from a storage room sometime between July 22 and Aug. 13, according to a resident at an apartment building in the 3900 block of Vineyard Avenue. The victim told police that he was trying to sell the items and had one tire as a sample for prospective buyers in his apartment.

An officer searched the storage area, which the victim rented, and found no signs of prying on the door or its frame. The report said the door was a lightweight wood residential door that's locking mechanism was "not very durable" and "could easily be defeated." The officer also noticed other storage rooms had been tampered with as doors were ajar, but the complex reported no missing items from those rooms.

Police Report

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

August 3

- Theft:
 - 4:46 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall road; identity theft
 - 7:18 p.m. in the 2400 block of Tapestry Way; stolen vehicle
 - 9:18 p.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road; stolen vehicle
- Lost property:
 - 10:57 p.m. in the 700 block of Sylvaner Drive

August 4

- Theft:
 - 12:28 a.m. in the 3800 block of Mammoth Cave Court; grand theft
 - 11:59 a.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive; stolen vehicle
- Vandalism:
 - 12:41 p.m. in the 3600 block of Washington Street
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 8:31 a.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive
 - 6:59 p.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 12:53 a.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Hopyard Road; DUI
 - 1:53 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Owens Drive; DUI
 - 3:55 p.m. at the intersection of First Street and Bernal Avenue; driving with marijuana
 - 10:54 p.m. in the 2700 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
- Other:
 - 9:18 a.m. in the 2000 block of West Lagoon Road; prank phone calls
 - 2:30 p.m. in the 1000 block of Serpentine Road; recovered vehicle

August 5

- Vandalism:
 - 1:43 p.m. at the intersection of Touriga Place and Riesling Drive;

- worth less than \$400
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 12:42 a.m. in the 6900 block of Corte Monterey; underage drinking on private property
 - 9:05 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; possession of non-narcotic controlled substance
 - 9:56 a.m. in the 8100 block of Golden Eagle Way; driving with marijuana
 - 4:56 p.m. in the 6900 block of Corte Antonio; paraphernalia possession
 - 8:31 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
 - 10:08 p.m. at the intersection of Singletree Way and Jackie Court; DUI

August 6

- Theft:
 - 7:20 a.m. in the 4700 block of Black Avenue; grand theft
 - 5:28 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; stolen vehicle
 - 7:17 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; stolen vehicle
- Burglary:
 - 10:53 a.m. in the 4900 block of Owens Drive; vehicular
 - 6:06 p.m. in the 100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; vehicular
 - 7:26 p.m. in the 5500 block of Corte Del Cajon
- Other:
 - 12:19 a.m. in the 4400 block of First Street; threats

August 7

- Theft:
 - 2:44 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; grand theft
- Vandalism:
 - 1:52 a.m. in the 4700 block of Muirwood Drive; worth over \$400
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 6:27 p.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive
- Lost property:
 - 12:50 p.m. in the 800 block of Main Street
- Found property:
 - 1:43 p.m. in the 5800 block of

- Owens Drive
- Public drunkenness:
 - 8:09 p.m. in the 6600 block of Koll Center Parkway
- Assault:
 - 11:53 p.m. in the 3900 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

August 8

- Theft:
 - 11:20 a.m. in the 400 block of Main Street; grand theft
 - 12:33 p.m. in the 2300 block of Greenwood Road; forgery and grand theft
 - 3:07 p.m. in the 400 block of Main Street; grand theft
 - 3:15 p.m. in the 5600 block of Sunol Boulevard; embezzlement
 - 3:14 p.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive; petty theft
 - 9:40 p.m. in the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; stolen vehicle
- Marijuana possession:
 - 8:29 p.m. in the 7500 block of Hillsdale Drive
- Other:
 - 9:26 a.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road; recovered vehicle

August 9

- Theft:
 - 7:07 a.m. in the 5300 block of Case Avenue; grand theft
 - 8:07 a.m. in the 3400 block of Andrews Drive; grand theft
 - 11:29 a.m. in the 2800 block of Hopyard Road; grand theft
 - 12:41 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- Vandalism:
 - 2:43 p.m. in the 5700 block of Owens Drive; worth over \$400
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 3:25 p.m. in the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 6:38 p.m. in the 5400 block of Sunol Boulevard; alcohol sold to a minor and use of fake identification
 - 6:39 p.m. in the 2100 block of Rheem Drive; alcohol possession by a minor
- Mental health danger:
 - 9:08 p.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

City Council

Tuesday, August 21, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Review and consider the Draft Land Use Element of the General Plan
- Status report regarding maintenance conditions at the Hacienda Mobile Home Park
- Review the Memorandum of Understanding between Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department Joint Powers Authority and the International Association of Firefighters Local 1974

Planning Commission

Wednesday, August 22, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- **PUD 62/PGPA 13, Windstar Communities, Inc.**
Work Session to review and receive comments on applications for General Plan Amendment and Planned Unit Development (PUD) rezoning and development plan to construct a mixed use high density residential/commercial development containing 350 apartment units and approximately 12,000 square feet of commercial/retail space at the property located at 6110 Stoneridge Mall Road (adjacent to the future West Dublin/Pleasanton BART station).
- **PUD 63, Frank Auf der Maur, Michael Carey, and Steve Maestas**
Work Session to review and receive comment for an application for Planned Unit Development to construct four single family residential units with detached garages at the property located at 418 Rose Avenue.
- **PREV 650, Robert Wentworth**
Work Session to review and receive comments on a preliminary review proposal to subdivide an existing 6.04 acre parcel into three lots ranging from 1.54 acres to 2.75 acres in conformance with the Happy Valley Specific Plan, or to consider increasing the number of lots up to eight, ranging from 9,200 square feet to 68,080 square feet. The project is located at 1157 Happy Valley Road.

Youth Commission

- The Youth Commission meeting on August 8th has been cancelled. The next Youth Commission meeting is scheduled for September 12th.

Parks and Recreation Commission

- The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on August 9th has been cancelled. The next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for September 13th.

Library Commission

- The Library Commission meeting on August 9th has been cancelled. The next Library Commission meeting is scheduled for September 13th.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Notice of Commission/Committee Vacancies

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

- * Civic Arts Commission
- * Human Services Commission
- * Economic Vitality Committee
 - (1) Biomedical Business Representation
 - (1) Environmental Community Representative
 - (1) Commercial Services Firm Representative

Applications are available at the City Clerk's office, 123 Main Street, Pleasanton or on the City's Website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us. For additional information, call the office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027. Applications must be received no later than 5:00 P.M., FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 2007. Postmarks are not accepted.

Gingerbread Preschool

Spaces available for Fall 2007
The Gingerbread preschool program offers children the opportunity to learn through play, hands-on activities and inspires creativity and the love of learning. For space availability or more information, phone (925) 931-3430 or visit our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/recreation/

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

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

DOES PLEASANTON NEED A NEW LIBRARY?

OUTDATED TECHNOLOGY, piled up books, lack of MEETING SPACE CITED AS WOES

story and photos by Janet Pelletier



Charli Faris, 9, of Pleasanton, reads a book in the children's section, which comprises one-third of the library.



A woman reaches up high to grab a book from a shelf. Many of the library's shelving units have seven shelves from floor to ceiling, making it difficult for those to reach, both high and low.

Just a couple of weeks until school starts, the library is bustling with activity.

Many of the record 4,100 who signed up for this year's youth summer reading program have been filing in to collect their prizes. Children peruse through the vast children's section, currently decorated in the reading program's medieval theme. Tutoring sessions are being held in the back. Adults sift through computer catalogs and other children wait their turn to play games on computers. A woman sits peacefully in the magazine area, engrossed on a Nora Roberts book. Over in the graphic novel section, piles of books cover the tables.

The summer is the busiest time for the library, despite common logic that children are out of school and thus, have less of a need to use

the library for book reports and the like. In fact, June, July and August are the most popular months because children aren't in school all day and are looking for things to do to keep busy, according to Carl Cousineau, who is the library services manager. December is the slowest month, mostly because of the holidays.

With a circulation of 1.2 million books coming in and going out of the library per year, it's not an exaggeration to say that the library is well-used by Pleasanton residents.

"People like the casual, social interactions that come with public libraries," said Julie Farnsworth, who is the director of the library. "They have turned out to be a great place for that."

"It's like the 'Cheer's' bar," she said in a reference to the popular

TV show.

The 30,000-square-foot facility is bursting at the seams when it comes to shelving books. On a recent Monday afternoon, the check-in area was bombarded with rows of book carts as well as shelves filled with books.

"For every item we have, we have to throw away something else because there just isn't any room," Farnsworth said.

The library staff would gladly close the book on the current facility at the corner of Old Bernal and Bernal avenues if offered the opportunity.

"There's a need, but exactly what will happen is up to the City Council," Farnsworth said.

That's because a vision to tear down the library and build a new one in a similar area would involve

the current City Hall, which is just feet away from the library on Old Bernal. The City Council is expected to review plans for the library later this fall.

"We don't have a specific date for that," said Assistant City Manager Steve Bocian, when asked when the plans would go to the council. "Basically where we are is we received a draft report from the designer working on this project and that was reviewed by our library commission, but that report has not moved forward yet."

Bocian said the city wanted to get a comprehensive review from staff and some of those staff members have been tied up with other projects going before the city.

"The main focus of what we looked at was how could we meet library needs in the future and

that included a range of things: an expansion of the library building or building a new library," he said. "We looked at the potential of building the new library where locations of current city buildings are located and if we did that, how would we relocate those buildings. It wasn't really intended to be a master plan that looked completely at the civic center but rather a way of meeting library needs. There is not a specific plan in place."

An architect studied the current library, its structural capacity; the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system, among other things, and researched whether the library could be renovated and/or expanded, Farnsworth said. It was discovered that a second-story addition couldn't be built because there wasn't enough struc-

tural integrity, leaving only the previous option or that of building a new library.

Farnsworth said while there is a possibility to renovate and expand the library, it would be difficult because the library isn't on a large piece of land. Expanding it would mean eliminating parking spaces and possibly adding underground parking in its place.

Talk of the library's future plans is important to local resident Corri Cooper, who joined the city's library commission in March. After moving to Pleasanton from Aptos near Santa Cruz four years ago, Cooper said she wanted her children to benefit from her being involved in the community in which they live.

"We're a family of avid readers," she said.

The Cooper family, which also includes husband Mitch and daughters Amanda, 4, and Abbie, 7, are the type of demographic that frequents the library. To accommodate that population, about one-third of the library is solely dedicated to children.

The library doesn't just loan books either; it has a vast amount of programs for all ages and regularly hosts school groups for field trips.

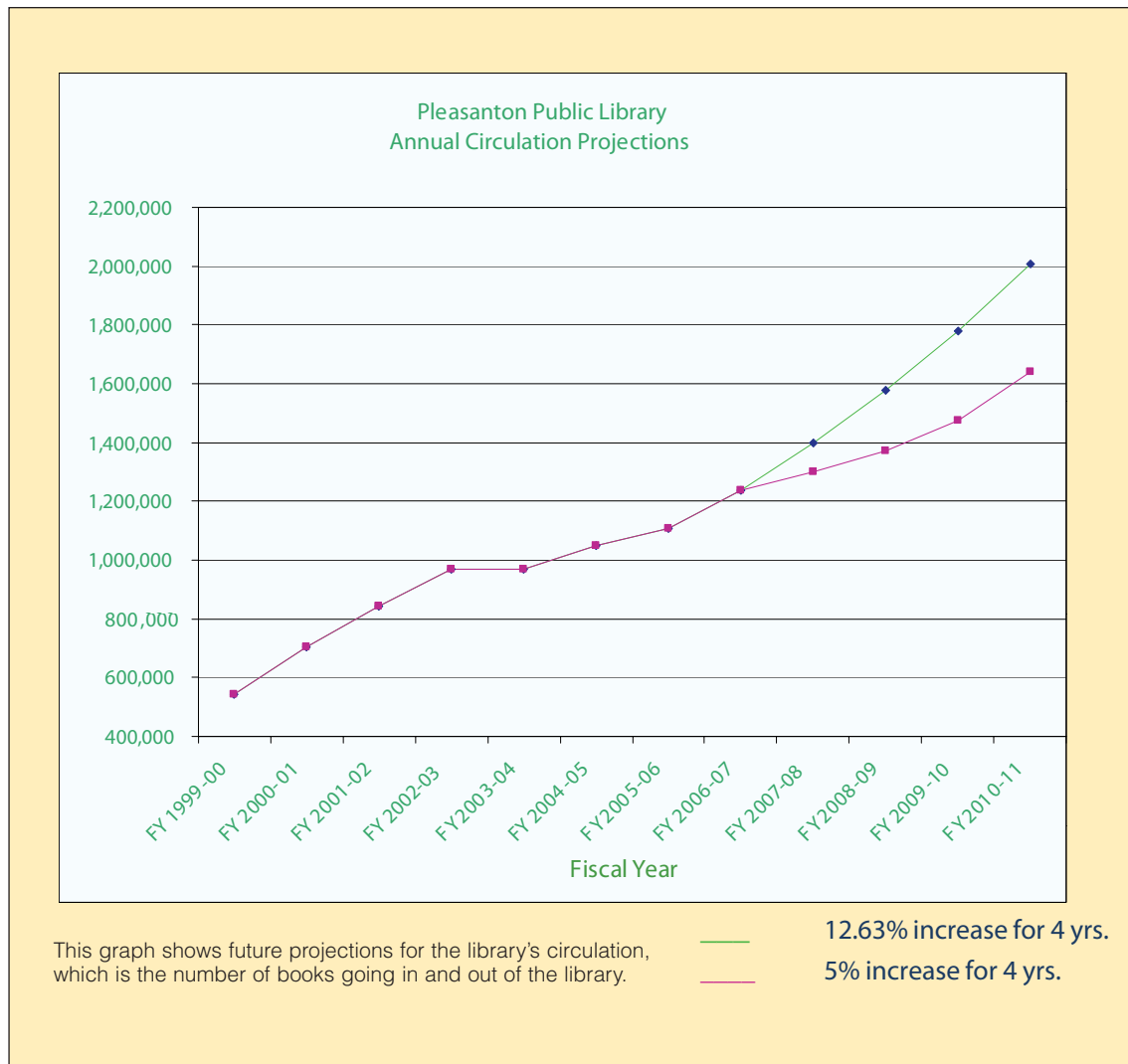
"It's a big draw—everything from book reports to parents wanting their kids to read," said children's supervisor John Mitchell.

"Even on days when we don't have anything scheduled, it's wall to wall," added Sandy Silva, director of the children's services. "We've had to hand tickets to parent for children's programs because they are so popular that there are people on waiting lists."

While the youth-oriented programs are in so much demand, library staff can't add more because there just isn't enough room to hold them.

"I would love to have toddler, preschool and older children's programs all at the same time so busy moms could bring all of their children," Farnsworth said. "There could even be prenatal."

"It's so much more than just books," Cooper said. "People don't realize the magnitude of services that are offered."



The library has one meeting room and most modern libraries have two or three, Farnsworth said.

If a new library were built, it would be about 72,000-square-feet, which would be more than double the size of the existing one, which was built in 1988.

While the library is a huge hit with youths, it's also attractive to seniors. A vast large-type collection is available for seniors in formats such as books, books on tape and books on CD. Cousineau said slots for a program that teaches seniors the basics of using a computer and the Internet are always filled up.

Also on the staff's wish list are more computers, since the ones that are present are always being used.

There are 20 total machines, 12 for adults and eight for children's.

"We should have 50," said Yu Too, who works in reference services. "Because we don't have enough, we have to limit people to one-hour time slots."

Future plans, whether an expansion or a new library, will most likely include newer technology that will help the staff deal with the backlog of books. RFID, radio frequency identification, is a technology that codes books with a microchip so that the books can be automatically processed, rather than the current system of having a staff member manually check the book in.

Take a trip around the library and you'll find floor-to-ceiling shelves,

which Farnsworth said sometimes makes it difficult for patrons to reach a particular book if it's really low or really high.

It's not just the library floor that is squeezed for room. Behind all the service counters that the average patron sees are the areas where staff members sit and perform various jobs behind the scenes. Some office cubicles are so small that a desk chair can't complete a circle. In the circulation department, Mary Sindicic, who is the circulation supervisor, demonstrated floor-to-ceiling shelving units that move with the crank of a wheel that are used to conserve space.

"We just have to make sure someone doesn't get sandwiched in there

when we're using it," Farnsworth said jokingly.

Further back into the deep abyss of office space, more shelves are packed with books waiting in the queue to get a barcode and be processed to go out on the floor. It would make even the non-claustrophobic uncomfortable.

While the approximately 50 people who work for the library are paid staff members, there are a number of people who contribute their time who do so for free.

The Friends of the Pleasanton Library is a volunteer group that helps raise money by selling books to help pay for various library costs. There are about 400 people on the group's mailing list and about 10 dedicate volunteers, such as President Nancy Bering, who has been with the Friends since before the library was transferred to the city from Alameda County in 1999.

"We raise money for the library for material and programs, whatever needs that we can provide, by having our twice a year book sale," Bering said. "Our book sales range from \$19,000-\$20,000, sometimes not even that much."

In addition to the biennial book sales, the Friends have a shelf near the lobby area of the library where paperback books are sold on a regular basis.

Bering emphasized that the books they sell all come from donations, not from the library's shelves.

"All of our patrons, Pleasanton people—that's where we get them from," she said. "I really think they go to Costco or somewhere like that, read a book and then donate it to the library. It's great."

The money raised goes to everything from supporting children's programs, adult programs to purchasing furniture for the library.

"It all goes back to the library, there's no overhead and no one is paid for this," Bering said.

"It's a well loved, well used library and if we had more room, we could do more programs. We're doing the best we can with what we have, but don't we always want something a little better?" ■



This pair is involved in a tutoring session at one of the tables inside the library. Library Director Julie Farnsworth said one of the main problems with the library is that there isn't enough space for tables and other meeting rooms.



Rows of carts filled with books are a common sight at the library, which is well used.

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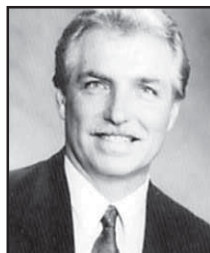
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Calendar

Author Visits

Leslie Sbrocco at Livermore Public Library Award winning author, writer, speaker, wine consultant and TV host, Leslie Sbrocco's entertaining approach makes learning about wine and food fun. This free program will be at 2 p.m. Aug. 26 at 1188 S. Livermore Ave.

Book Clubs

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

Civic Meetings

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

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

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

Parks & Recreation Commission

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

Planning Commission The Planning Commission meets at 7 p.m. the second 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@mcdermottcosta.com or (510) 599-8525, so we can send you details. Save the dates of Sept. 14 (mixer) and 15 (dinner/dancing).

Weekend Preview



Seeing cars as art

Car-inspired pieces such as "Vroom" by David Mudgett (above) will be on display at Worthington Gallery West, 739-J Main St., Aug. 24 through Sept. 22 as part of the "Pin-ups and Pinstripes" exhibit. The show is coordinated with the 25th anniversary of the Goodguys Rod and Custom Association's hot rod and custom car event, which runs Aug. 24 to 26 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. The exhibit includes pieces of art in a variety of media, all of which relate to cars, transportation or automotive accessories. There will be an exhibit opening from 6 to 8 p.m. Aug. 24, offering a chance for attendees to meet the artists. Worthington Gallery West is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and from noon to 8 p.m. Friday. Call 485-1183 or email wgallerywest@sbcglobal.net.

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Classes

College Admissions Seminar The seminar takes place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Aug. 21 Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Learn about the latest in college admissions, including how colleges evaluate applicants, how to find a good fit, what to do before senior year and how to prepare a strong application. For parents and high school students. Call 963-2932.

Pleasanton Read Project Teach people to read and write as a literacy volunteer for the Pleasanton Public Library Read Project. An in-depth training day will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 25 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call 931-3411.

Clubs

Boutique Textile Art Create home accessories, wearable art or soft sculpture. Learn how to piece, applique and embroider ideas into art from 10 a.m. to noon every Tuesday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Class is free. Bring fabric scraps, a yard of unbleached muslin, sharp scissors and dressmaker pins.

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

Good News Bears Be a part of providing comfort to children and adults by giving stuffed animals. Good News Bears meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Livermore Police Station, 1110 S. Livermore Ave. Join us on the third Thursday of the month to see how you can provide "stuffed love" in our community. Club dues are \$30 per year. Contact Jeanie Haigh at jhaigh@webbearings.com or 373-7982.

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

Porsche Club of America, Diablo Region This club is for owners and enthusiasts of all Porsches. It meets at 8 a.m. every Saturday for breakfast at Marie Callendar's 1101 S. Calif Blvd., Walnut Creek and at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Strizzi's 3456 Camino Tassajara, Danville. Visit www.pca.org/dia.

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 pleasantontoastmasters.com.

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.

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.

Concerts

The High Strung with Posterboy Rock Concert From 6 to 8 p.m. Aug. 18, the Pleasanton Public Library presents for the second year, the quirky,

carefree, energetic music of Detroit's The High Strung. Local favorites Posterboy will open the show on the Library Lawn, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call 931-3404.

Events

Au Pairs Scavenger Hunt Cultural Care Au pair would like to invite all au pairs in the Bay Area to our annual scavenger hunt on the embarcadero Aug. 19. Lunch will be included.†All au pairs regardless of agency are invited. This event is easily accessible with BART. Call (650) 465-1000 or email heidibrewer@sbcglobal.net for info on this event.†For more info about au pairs visit us at www.culturalcare.com.

Faultline War II, the Shootout The California Range Riders are hosting a Cowboy Mounted Shooting competition at the Robertson Park Covered Arena from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 25. The event, called Faultline War II, the Shootout, includes an 1880's atmosphere where blanks will be shot at balloons on a timed course. Visit www.CaliforniaRangeRiders.com.

Thomas Coyne Winery Summer Open House Join Thomas Coyne at his historical tasting room, 51 E. Vallecitos Road, Livermore, for the Summer Open House from noon to 5 p.m. Aug. 18 and 19. Bring a picnic and enjoy the sweeping views of the Livermore Valley Wine Country. Fine fruits and cheeses will be served with the new released wines, 2006 La Petite Quest and 2002 Livermore Merlot. Call 373-6541 or visit <http://thomascynewinery.com>.

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. 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.

Film

War Made Easy "War Made Easy: How Presidents & Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death," is a new film showing the historic collusion between government and media to gain public support for war. This non-partisan event has wheelchair access, refreshments, meet & greet at 6:30 p.m., and a short discussion follows the film. The film will be shown from 7 to 9 p.m. Aug. 25 at the IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. A \$3 optional donation is requested. Call 462-3459.

Fundraisers

Garage & Garden Sale The Valley Humane Society hosts a garage and garden sale to benefit the Just Like New Fund, which pays one-time emergency medical costs so low- and fixed-income families can get help for sick or injured pets. The sale will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 25 at 4510 Entrada Ct. (off Neal Street). Call Jackie Barnett at 846-2512.

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 who want to participate by purchasing an inexpensive pattern from The Mother Bear Project and completing a bear by December. The first meeting will take place at 7 p.m. Aug. 8 at 205A Main St. Call 249-9276 or visit www.yourknittingplace.com.

REAL ESTATE ADVISOR

Diana Korpi



ADD ON OR BUY?

Homeowners should consider several questions before deciding to add on to an existing home or move up in the market to a bigger house. How much money do you have available for remodeling your current house? How much additional space do you require? Is there room to expand on the ground level or will the foundation of your present home support a second floor? What will the local zoning and building ordinances permit? How much equity do you have in the property? Are there affordable properties for sale that would satisfy your housing needs?

Consider your neighborhood—it makes more sense to add on to a smaller house than to over-improve the largest home in the area. Your decision should ultimately be based on

your individual needs, the extent of the work involved and which features will add the most value. According to industry experts, buyers are always enthusiastic about state-of-the-art kitchens and bathrooms.

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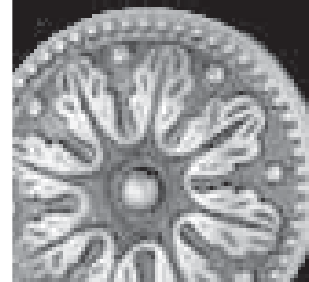
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Tri-Valley Democrats Barbeque
The Tri-Valley Democrats host local leaders at its annual barbeque from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 18 at Kolb Park on Brighton Drive, Dublin. This event supports the 2008 election season. Speakers including Assemblymembers Alberto Torrico, Loni Hancock, Mary Hayashi and area

officials and candidates. The cost is \$25 for adults. Call 831-8355 or visit www.trivalleydems.com.

Health

Self-Help Massage Techniques
World School of Massage and Holistic

Healing Arts will offer a free seminar for the general public from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Aug. 29. The Lymph Loving workshop covers the physiology and techniques for the body's most important recycling system. Call 461-2533 or visit www.worldschoolmassage.com.

Kids & Teens

California Tamil Academy Online registration for Tamil School is now open for the 2007-08 academic year. First day of school is Aug. 26 and the class runs through May 2008. Please register before school for class assignment and books. For more information visit www.catamilacademy.org. Classes are held Sunday between 10-11.30 a.m. at Harvest Park Middle School. Visit www.catamilacademy.org.

Lectures/ Workshops

First Time HomeBuyer Seminar
A free First Time Home Buyer educational seminar will be held at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 23 at the Diablo Funding Group, 100 Park Pl., Ste. 205, San Ramon. Learn the benefits of home ownership and qualification. Receive free home buyer checklists and mortgage info. Call 586-0429.

What's New in Breast Cancer Treatment
Hear the latest breast cancer research presented at the recent American Society of Clinical Oncology Conference from 6 to 8 p.m. Aug. 30 at the Valley Care Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd, Stes. 240 A & B. Advances in treatment including those in integrative oncology will be highlighted. Bring your questions. Call 933-0107 or visit www.twc-bayarea.org.

Live Music

Concerts in the Park At 7 p.m. every Friday night through Sept. 7, music will fill Lions Wayside Park, at First and Neal streets. The line-up is as follows: La Ventana Aug. 17, Magic Moments Aug. 24, The Tom Rose Band Aug. 31, and Public Eye Sept. 7. For more information visit www.downtownpleasanton.net
Music for a Sabbath Evening Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road, presents Music for a Sabbath Evening at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 19. Compositions by Clayton J. Floor. Featuring East Bay Festival Chorus, Flutes Con Moto, and Clayton Floor, music director at Tri-Valley Unity Church in Dublin, on piano. Lively music in the classical tradition, and brilliant new compositions. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$40 per family of two or more. Call 783-3965.

Works by Clayton Floor Clay Floor is a

young Bay Area composer and arranger with an incredible melodic sense who has been active locally as both an instrumentalist and choir conductor. The public can hear an entire concert of his music, both choral and instrumental from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Aug. 18 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road. Tickets are \$20 and available at the door. Visit <http://claytonjfloor.com>

Miscellaneous

Food Drive Dinner My Way of Pleasanton is sponsoring a food drive for Tri-Valley Haven. Your non-perishable food will be accepted through Aug. 31 at our store located at 1989 Santa Rita Road, Ste. G. Call 485-4286.

Tulancingo Sister City Delegation Visit to Pleasanton Pleasanton's Mexico Sister City, Tulancingo, will send a delegation of 25 for its 24th annual visit in September. We have many community events planned, day and evening, and welcome new participation. Come join us for the fun! Call 462-6723 or 989-8451.

Seniors

Computer Tutoring One-on-one computer tutoring is available every day at the Pleasanton Senior Center. The tutor works with you on topics where you need help. No formal pro-

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gram to follow, just help where you need it. Internet, Office applications, picture editing, etc. Call 931-5365 to set up an appointment. The cost is \$1.25 for residents.

Pleasanton PC Users Group The PC User Group meets monthly at 10 a.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. You don't need to be an expert to attend, we have all skills levels in our meetings. The usual Senior Center charges apply, \$1.25 for Pleasanton Residents, \$1.75 for all others. Call 931-5365 or email pleasenior@yahoo.com for details.

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

Sports

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

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 betyrunnels@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.

Widow/Widowers Support Group Have you or someone you know experienced the death of a spouse recently or within the last couple years? Find hope, support and successful ways to process this significant life

event. Course is open to all widows and widowers. Enrollments are now being accepted and can start up to third week. Pre-registration required. The workbook is \$5. The group meets from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Saturdays from Oct. 6 to Dec. 15 at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valley Pkwy. Call Linda Husted at 833-9013.

Volunteering

Blankets for Kids Blankets For Kids, founded by Pleasanton resident Jo Molz, makes and distributes soft fleece blankets to at-risk, abused and neglected children in the Tri-Valley, Alameda County and even Los Angeles. The easy-to-make blankets are constructed of a soft fleece material with pleasant designs. Volunteers have made more than 10,000 blankets for distribution since the organization began. Those interested in volunteering, or donating money or fleece to the nonprofit organization call Jo, 846-6155.

Tri-City Homeless Coalition's Sunrise Village Tri-City Homeless Coalition's Sunrise Village, a homeless shelter in Fremont serving families and single men and women needs your help! We need you or your group to prepare and serve lunch or dinner on Thursdays starting in September. † Individuals, families, organizations and faith groups are encouraged to call. Call Bonnie Wilson with questions or to volunteer, (510) 252-0910 ext. 11.

Weekly Concerts in the Park Drawing

NAME: _____

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Bring this entry form to this week's concert for a chance to win great prizes

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Sports

Parent photographers

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Pleasanton Rage U12 Premier starts season with a medal

Pleasanton Rage U12 Premier brought home third place medals at the MDSL Summer Classic tournament Aug. 11-12 in Concord. In the first game against Lamorinda United, Rage was down 2-0 at the half, but Kira Ewanich's hat trick (three goals) brought them a 3-2 victory.

In the second game against Livermore Crew, Rage thought they scored when Kirsten Jensen shot into the top corner of the net, only for the referee to make a debatable offside call on another player. Andi Boehm held off two defenders and passed across the field to Jessica Medina. Medina

smashed it into the net for a goal. In the second half, Rage didn't finish the game they started and lost 2-1.

On Sunday, Rage showed their force with a 6-0 victory over the Mount Diablo Dominators. Boehm crossed it to Tori Larsen. Larsen fires into the net for the first goal. Minutes later, Larsen does it again for a second goal. On the side, Haley Lukas throws the ball to Boehm, who shoots from 25 yards for another goal. Medina and Ewanich drove two more goals into the net. Defenders Cambi Cukar, Haley Lukas and Georgia Savage shut down the Dominators. Outstanding jobs by goalies Lexie Nicholas and Brittany Gray.

For the final game against the Mount Diablo Storm, Haley Lukas drove the ball down the field, passed to Boehm, who fired it into the net for the first goal. Ewanich picked up the ball at the halfway line, shrugged off three defenders and cracked it to the net for the next goal. In a huddle at the net, McKalee Mooney saw a hole and brought the ball to the goal. The last goal was made when Boehm served the ball from the corner into the heart of the defense, as the ball bubbled; Mooney does it again for another goal. Rage finished the game with a 4-2 victory.

—Kim Cukar

Sports Briefs

Cyclepath workshop series set to ride starting Aug. 26

Local bike shop, Cyclepath, is hosting a free workshop series that seeks to make a cyclist out of anyone. Joel Davis will hold bi-monthly clinics that will educate cyclists on topic like bicycle handling and safety to understand the parts on a bike. The first workshop will be held from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Aug. 26 at 337 B Main St. and led by EMC Team Racer Richard Asturias. Call 485-3218 or visit www.cyclepath.com.

Tri-For-Fun celebrates 20 years this Saturday

The longest running East Bay triathlon series, Tri-For-Fun, is taking place this weekend at Shadow Cliffs and more than 1,000 participants are expected.

Twenty years ago a group of 28 friends got together on an August morning at Shadow Cliffs Park to establish the sprint triathlon. Now more than 1,000 are expected to participate in the longest running East Bay triathlon series this weekend at Shadow Cliffs.

The event, presented by On Your Mark Events, attracts athletes of all skill levels, ages and experience to participate in a 400-yard swim, 11-mile bike and 3-mile run. While not a timed race, a clock will be running for personal reference.

Named by "Triathlete Magazine" as one of the best triathlons in North America, the series has primarily grown from word of mouth. Event organizers say it is common to see a 12-year-old running alongside a 70-year-old. They also add that for the past four years 65 percent of the participants were female, which is quite unique.

The Tri-For-Fun begins at 7 a.m. and will go until about 11

a.m. Spectators are welcome. To learn more, visit www.onyourmarkevents.com.

PONY baseball registration is open

PONY baseball, which has players from Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin, is now accepting registrations. Register online at www.pleasantonpony.com or www.livermorepony.com. Contact Angel Moore at amo10@comcast.net or 600-PONY for more information.

Run or walk 'Back to School'

The Back to School Scholarship Run sponsored by the Northern California Association of Sales and Marketing Companies and Diamond Foods will be held on Sept. 15 at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park. The Scholarship run raises funds for college scholarships offered to children of parents working in the California food industry.

The run features three races: a 10K run, 5k run and walk and a children's mile.

The race is also known for the Monster Goody Bag given to the first 350 registered entrants, which includes grocery items provided by more than 40 sponsors. Participants will also receive a T-shirt, refreshments and entry into a raffle.

Entry fees for the 10K or 5K events are \$25 for pre-registration and \$30 on race day. The children's mile is \$7 pre-registration or \$10 on race day.

Check in is a 7 a.m. for the 10K and 5K events and 9:30 a.m. for the children's mile.

For more information and/or an application, call On Your Mark Race Management at (209) 795-7832 or visit www.onyourmarkevents.com.

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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 for event and private party details.

Asian-Pacific

Mahalo Grille

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

Barbecue

Red Smoke Grill

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

Brewpub/Alehouse

The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill

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

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

California Cuisine

Stacey's at Waterford

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

Stacey's Cafe

310 Main St., Pleasanton, 461-3113. Located on Main Street in downtown Pleasanton, Stacey's is open for lunch and dinner seven days a week, serving fresh California cuisine. Come

as you are and enjoy our dining room, banquet room, outdoor patios and full bar. Visit www.staceyscafe.com.

Catering

Fontina's Catering

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

Chinese

Chinese Szechuan

3059 Hopyard Road #G, Pleasanton, 846-5251. Chinese Szechuan is Pleasanton's best-loved Chinese restaurant. Family owned and run since 1987, it has friendly service, delicious

food and great prices, including lunch specials and carry-out. A banquet room is available.

Panda Mandarin Cuisine

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

Continental

Barone's

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

Fusion

Oasis Grille

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

Italian

Fontina Ristorante

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

(continued on page 24)



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

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.

Pizza

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

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