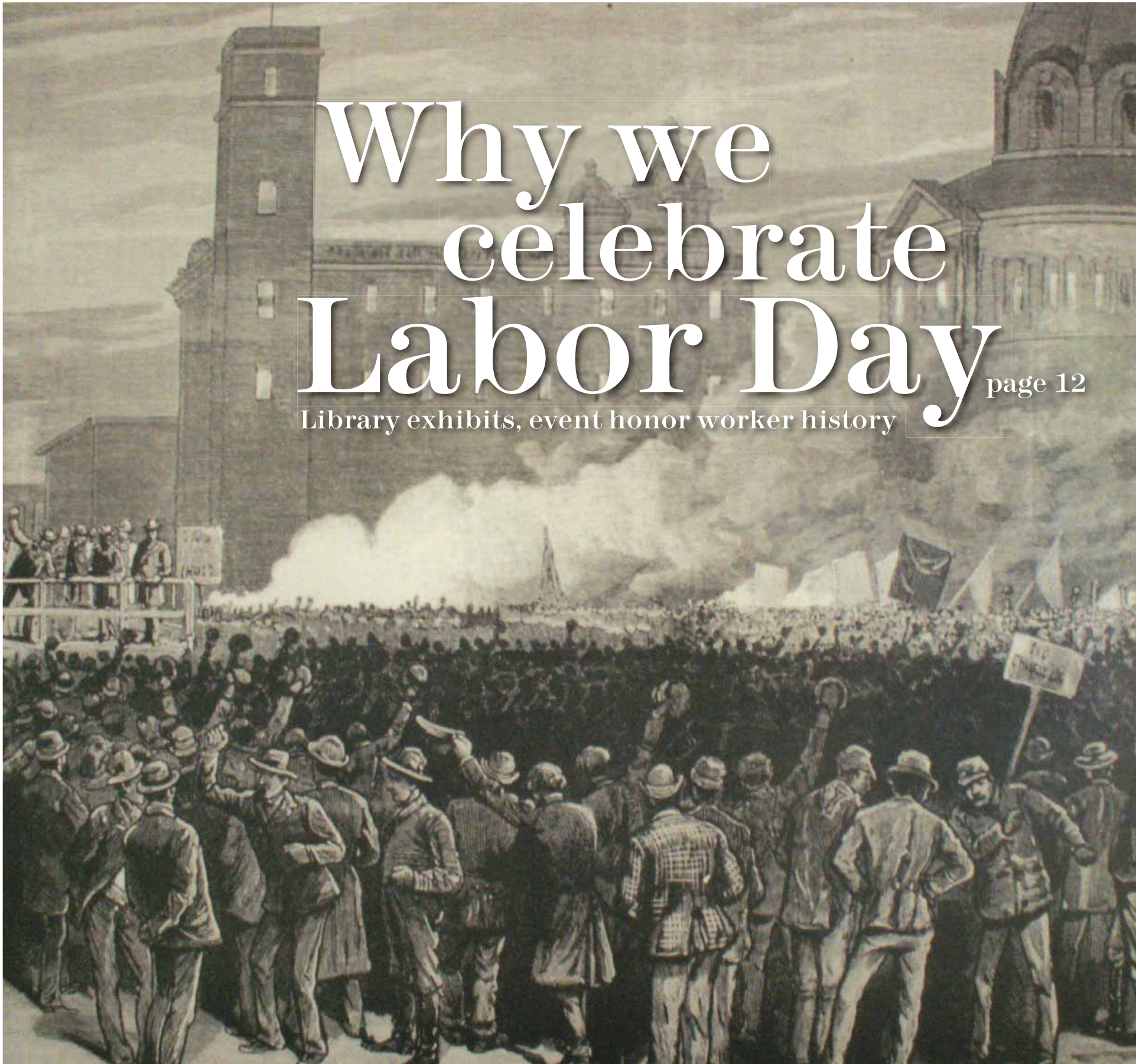


# PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Vol. VIII, Number 31 • August 31, 2007

www.PleasantonWeekly.com

It's all about Pleasanton



## Why we celebrate Labor Day

page 12

Library exhibits, event honor worker history

**INSIDE**  
**this week**

### Prepping for prototype

Store on Bernal and I-680 to compete with Whole Foods  
page 5

### Council crowds

Many expected at the Sept. 4 Oak Grove meeting  
page 5

### Home sales in flux

Sales decrease, but median price is up  
page 33

### Back in town

Fairgrounds host Scottish Games this weekend  
Section 2

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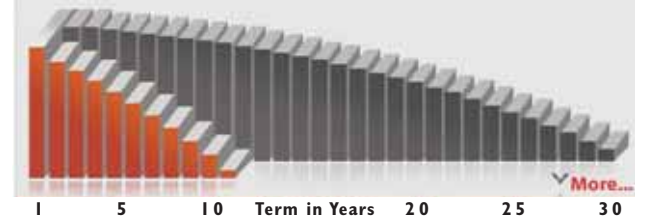
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# Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

## A kindergartner who has reason to be proud

No one was prouder of going off to kindergarten last Tuesday than 5-year-old Sarah Banholzer, her parents Teri and John and, in fact, all of us in Pleasanton who have been rooting and helping this brave child who is battling the fight of her young life to overcome acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). It's a fast-growing cancer of the white blood cells that the body uses to fight infections. Sarah still has another 18 months of treatment before the disease can be placed in remission, which the doctors at Children's Hospital in Oakland are confident will happen. Along the way, she is poked and prodded many days each month more than most of us will experience in our lifetime. She's courageous and determined to beat the disease, yet an understanding child who knows that she must follow the rules carefully if she's to win this battle.

That's why last Tuesday was so critical. Even though Sarah had enjoyed a reasonably quiet summer—even a trip to Disneyland—without the highs and lows in health fights that occurred during the winter months when the leukemia was most aggressive, an ear infection last week rocked the family's confidence. Although most of us don't have our children's blood tested if an ear is infected, any infection is a warning sign for the Banholzers. Even something as common and easily remedied as an infected ear plays havoc with the white cell count for someone like Sarah who is already low on white cells while undergoing chemotherapy and this type of leukemia. Last Friday, tests showed Sarah's white cell count at 269, well below the 500 that doctors say is the threshold for handling infections. Most of us with normal blood have a white cell count of over 1,500. Increased medication and another test on Monday reported

out both good and bad news. The white cell count was still under 500 but doctors wanted Sarah to go on with school as she had hoped, with Sarah eagerly filling one of the 20 seats in Mrs. Eklund's kindergarten class at Valley View Elementary Tuesday morning. Her parents and the rest of us felt missing out on the first day would be such an emotional letdown that it could do more harm than the risk of infection for Sarah's spirits. The doctors agreed, pointing out that there are few sick children in these transition weeks between spring colds and next winter's flu. And Sarah is doing just fine as the week plays out.

Sarah was born in 2002 just as Teri and John were restoring the home they had purchased on Division Street, close to downtown. A normal, vivacious girl who was the pride of her preschool teachers at nearby Sunshine Preschool, where she was enrolled, Sarah complained one day of a cold, then started having pneumonia-like symptoms. Within days, doctors diagnosed the disease as ALL and started treatments. For a time, because of the risk of infections, Sarah would make her frequent trips to High Tech Burrito on Main Street for her favorite Bitty Beanie with a facial mask that drew stares, but only for a while. There are about 4,000 new cases of ALL in the U.S. each year, most of them involving children under 10. Treatments are extensive, but for Sarah the results have been good despite some bad days. Her mother said Sarah really doesn't have ALL at all right now. And although the ear infection and ALL-like symptoms that quickly surfaced were a scare, the prognosis is for a full recovery and normal life—long after Mrs. Eklund's kindergarten. If you want to read more about Sarah through the frequent blogs Teri Banholzer writes, sign up for Sarah's Site at [www.harrismith.org/sarah](http://www.harrismith.org/sarah) and learn more. ■

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### About the Cover

In the 1870s, high levels of unemployment in California led to a xenophobic mentality with many workers blaming Chinese immigrants for the lack of work. This illustration published in Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper March 1880 depicts a rally by the Working Man's Party of California, a political group that ran on a number of platforms, one of which was the deportation of all Chinese immigrants. By 1883 the party no longer existed. Courtesy photo by San Francisco Public Library. Cover design by Lili Cao.

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# Streetwise

**Q:** What is the significance of Labor Day for you?

Asked Downtown



**Josh Richey**  
business owner

I don't know what a true celebration of Labor Day is all about because I work every Labor Day. I am in the process of building my business so I have to be there all the time. I take a day off when everyone is back to work.

**Ian Stermer**  
stay-at-home dad

The first thing that comes to mind is it is a day to celebrate work by playing, but it's a good time to remember that it took a lot of work and effort to build up this country. Labor Day is a chance to step back and acknowledge the people that worked in the factories and fields without the rights and benefits they deserved to build this great country.



**Beverly Streicher**  
retired teacher

To me, Labor Day is special, different for me than everyone else. Forty-five years ago on Labor Day my eldest daughter was born. You couldn't ask for more significance than that, truly a day of labor!

**Chelsea Jackson**  
student

Labor Day has always signified the end of summer, an extra day to be out of school and hang out with my friends and family.



**Kevin O'Sullivan**  
firefighter

Labor Day is a celebration and acknowledgment of the backbone of our country, the labor force and the middle class. We as a country need to fight to protect the eroding living standards of the middle class. We must support labor and American workers more than ever.

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Services will be held at the CarrAmerica Conference Center  
 4400 Rosewood Drive (across from Walmart)

**Rosh Hashana Services:**  
 Wednesday, September 12 - 7:00pm  
 Thursday, September 13 - 10:00am  
 Friday, September 14 - 10:00am  
*Festive Holiday Buffet will follow all services*

**Yom Kippur Services:**  
 Friday, September 21 - 6:30pm  
 Saturday, September 22 - 10:00am  
 Yizkor Memorial Service - 11:30am  
 Neilah, Closing Service - 6:30pm  
*Havdalah and a 'break the fast' buffet will follow*

# Newsfront

## News Digest

### Food drive to benefit Tri-Valley Haven

During the winter holiday season Tri-Valley Haven receives heavy food donations, but donations drop off sharply during the rest of the year. So Dinner MyWay, 1989 Santa Rita Road, is sponsoring a food drive through the end of September to benefit Tri-Valley Haven in Livermore. Drop off non-perishable foods from 3 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays (except Sept. 5), from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fridays and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays (except Sept. 1).

### Bay Bridge closed this weekend

Heading to San Francisco this weekend? You'll need to take a different route or avoid going all together. The Bay Bridge will be closed in both directions beginning 8 p.m. today and lasting through 5 a.m. Tuesday. The westbound portion of I-80 will remain open, including the Fremont and 4th Street westbound on-ramps. Pleasanton residents traveling to San Francisco should expect delays on the following alternative routes: the San Mateo Bridge (92), the San Rafael Bridge (4) or the Dumbarton Bridge (84). BART plans to add trains during the weekend. Check 511.org for further information and/or updates.

### Alameda County 4-H holds reunion picnic

A 4-H reunion barbecue picnic is scheduled from noon to 6 p.m. Sept. 9 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. The event program includes a special salute to Retired Alameda County Farm Advisor Gordon Winlow who was an inspiration to 4-Hers for 30 years. All members and leaders from 1955 to today are encouraged to attend. Tickets are on sale for \$15 for adults and \$8 for children (ages 9 and under). Reservations are due today. Call Leona at (510) 537-1536.

### 'Ask the Doctor' live Sept. 5

Find out more about joint pain and treatment by talking with Orthopedic Surgeon David Jupina, M.D. and Rheumatologist Melissa McNamara M.D. on TV30's live call-in show from 7 to 8 p.m. Sept. 5. Call 462.3030. The episode will rerun the remaining Wednesdays in September at 7 p.m.

#### Correction

In reference to "Work on Alviso Adobe progressing," (page 5, Aug. 24) the Alviso Adobe on Old Foothill Road dates back to the 19th century and the land it resides on has been habited since 3420 B.C.

## Safeway planning Whole Foods-type supermarket here

*Prototype store, 7 office buildings shown in plans circulating in City Hall*

by Jeb Bing

**S**afeway may build a new 6,500-square-foot prototype supermarket in Pleasanton, designed to compete with the Whole Foods Market chain of stores that are attracting an increasing number of shoppers looking for healthy foods.

The new store would be built at Valley and Bernal avenues next to I-680 on a 35-acre site owned by South Bay Development Company. South Bay, in turn, would build out the site with seven office buildings south of the new Safeway store and between Valley Avenue and the freeway.

Safeway is also proposing a gas station on Bernal Avenue, just east of the freeway, and South Bay would save space at the corner for retail stores.

Neither Safeway nor South Bay Development would discuss their plans for the site, but the Pleasanton Weekly obtained a copy of the proposed site plan.

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman has met with Scott Trobbe, who heads South Bay, and representatives of South Bay have reviewed the plans with City Manager Nelson Fialho and the city planning staff.

Safeway has opened several new supermarkets recently in Dublin and Livermore and is

on an aggressive marketing campaign to attract more customers, while also increasing its corporate portfolio.

Besides Wal-Mart which has taken business away from Safeway and other conventional supermarket chains in recent years with its low-priced superstores, Safeway also has been hurt by Whole Foods. That chain's chief executive John Mackey is engaged in an effort to merge his company with Wild Oats, another key player outside of California that also competes with Safeway, Kroger, Wal-Mart and other traditional supermarkets.

(continued on page 10)



(l-r) School Board Trustee Pat Kernan, Foothill High School Principal John Dwyer, President Jim Ott, Trustee Steve Brozosky and Superintendent John Casey check out Foothill's new ceramics room that was converted from a photography class over the summer.

## Over \$8 million spent on public school improvements

*High schools receive students greeted by updated campuses last week*

by Emily Atwood

**F**or those going back to school this week, many encountered a changing face of the campus. Major construction work that cost \$8.8 million in order to improve Pleasanton Unified School District facilities was completed this summer.

Seeing the most changes were Foothill and Amador Valley high schools. The biggest projects were the addition of science classrooms. Designed Building Systems, Inc. was on budget and ahead of schedule as they added 3,606 square feet of lecture and lab space for Foothill

and 4,560 square feet to Amador. The combined cost for both projects was \$4.01 million.

Superintendent John Casey said there's a big push for science classes in high school since algebra is now taught earlier and college require more science credits.

Also recently completed at both high schools are ceramics classrooms, which cost \$664,000. The program's popularity increased to require second additions at both high schools. At Foothill, a digital photography class was offered for the first time, so the second ceramics room

(continued on page 8)

## Oak Grove backers ready for big meeting

*Big crowds expected Sept. 4 at City Council; final decision expected Sept. 18*

by Janet Pelletier

**B**ackers of a project that would include 51 custom homes and 496 acres of open space to be turned over to the city for a trail system say they are ready for the highly anticipated City Council meeting next Tuesday.

At the meeting, the council will hear a presentation on Oak Grove from the applicants on behalf of Jennifer, Frederic and Kevin Lin, who own the wide swath of land in the southeast hills. They will also hear possibly hours of testimony during public comment, where many are expected to voice their opposition to the plan. It's expected that a formal decision won't be made until the next council meeting on Sept. 18, according to City Manager Nelson Fialho.

But despite the months of controversy the project has been embroiled in and the fierce opposition that's been voiced, those affiliated with Oak Grove say they will keep the plan the same as it was when brought before the Planning Commission back in July.

In July, the commission decided not to certify an environmental impact report for the project, the first step in the three-part approval process that the City Council will also go through. The other two parts include approving the project and approving a development agreement. The commission's recommendations will be included in the report council members will review at Tuesday's meeting.

"What you have before you is three years of incredible compromise," said Nanette Leuschel, a marketing representative for Oak Grove. "We went from 98 (homes) to 51 (homes) when the allowed zoning is 98 and given the parkland (dedication), how much more can you give?"

Residents who live in the neighboring

(continued on page 9)

## Chamber of Commerce CEO Bouchard resigns

*Chamber chief decides to leave after 10 years saying 'it's time to move on'*

Dave Bouchard, president of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce for the past 10 years, has resigned to pursue other management level positions.

Bouchard told the chamber's board of directors Aug. 23 that he has accomplished most of the goals he set out to achieve in building the chamber into a formidable business and political-savvy organization in Pleasanton, "and now is the time to go."

Although he has no specific offers, he said he hopes to parlay his years of experience in organizational leadership into a different type of management position, and one that will pay a bit more.

Bouchard earns \$75,000 a year as the chief executive of the Pleasanton Chamber.

"We're sorry to see Dave leave," said John Sensiba, the chamber chairman for 2007. "He's been responsible for major improvements and growth in the chamber, but I also respect his personal views that he's accomplished what he and the board sought during his tenure."

Sensiba said the board's executive committee, including himself, will immediately search for a new executive director, a position that officially became "President" when Bouchard took office in 1998.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my tenure as president and CEO, but 10 years is a long time in one organization," Bouchard said. "It is time for me to look for new challenges in my life, and find other ways to contribute to the Pleasanton community."

"I plan to continue to live in Pleasanton and expect to work here or in the surrounding area, so I plan to count myself as a Chamber member," he added. "As a result, I will not really leave the chamber but just change my relationship with the chamber from president and CEO to a member and client."

Among Bouchard's achievements, cited by Sensiba, are the modernization of the chamber into the digital age of communications; an array of new services, programs and activities for Chamber members; strengthening



Jeb Bing

After 10 years as the Chamber's chief, Dave Bouchard has decided to leave for other opportunities.

of the chamber's advocacy role with local government; establishing the chamber's Political Action Committee (a non-profit political action foundation); strengthening the Leadership Pleasanton program and establishing its foundation; forming strong partnerships with other business, non-profit organizations, the city and school district, and hiring a dedicated and competent staff.

During his tenure, Bouchard has also served on the Chabot-Las Positas College Measure B Bond Oversight Committee and the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation Advisory Board.

—Jeb Bing

## Red Cross needs blood

*Critical shortage leads to call for blood donations*

The Red Cross is asking the public to donate blood because the organization is in a critical shortage.

According to Jay Winkenbach, CEO of the American Red Cross Northern California Blood Services Region, "there can be high demand for blood during and following the Labor Day weekend due to an increase in highway accidents with people traveling, taking their final summer trips."

"This, combined with an expected drop in donations over the holiday, could lead to a shortage so severe that we will be scrambling to get the blood hospitals need for emergencies and they may have to postpone elective surgeries if it gets worse," he added.

According to the Red Cross, the organization provides most of the blood for more than 30 Northern California hospitals.

To donate blood, you must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 lbs. and be in generally good health.

A Red Cross blood center in Pleasanton is located at 5556-B Springdale Ave., in the JCPenney Plaza across from Stoneridge Shopping Center. The Pleasanton location is open Monday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday from noon to 7:30 p.m., Wednesday-Thursday from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Friday-Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

—Janet Pelletier

## What's your opinion?

Write a Letter to the editor

at [Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com) or put your opinion

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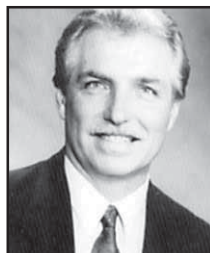
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# Pleasanton: Home sweet home

*Last in a three-part series of a 10-year-old's experience moving from Connecticut*

by Katie Lyness

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.

We made it, and we love it! We discovered very fast that the people who live in Pleasanton are warm and friendly. When my mom fell off of her bike in our new neighborhood, every single car that passed by stopped to offer her help, and the people who work in the stores are never rude. They even smile and seem to be enjoying their jobs. Back East, that would be considered very unusual.

It is also very beautiful here in Pleasanton, with all of the hills (we call them "flowy mountains") that surround us. One of my favorite beautiful things in Pleasanton is to watch the sun burning away the clouds every morning; at about 9 o'clock every morning, I look up and can see the clouds disintegrate before my eyes, revealing the bright, clear blue sky behind them. I think it's very exciting because it reminds me of a curtain going up at the beginning of a play. Before we moved to Pleasanton, when I would lie awake thinking about all of the things that would be different, I never thought about the sky.

It has also been much easier to make new friends in Pleasanton than I thought it would be. Jenny and I have already made friends at camp and in our neighborhood. We met most of our new neighborhood friends through our dog, because everyone is out walking with their dogs, just like us. That is another

great thing about Pleasanton. People are always out with their dogs, and bring their dogs with them when they go out, instead of leaving them home behind an electronic fence. Almost everyone back East has an electronic fence to keep their dogs on their property. We never had one though because we think it is cruel to let a dog be shocked.

I am missing my grandparents and my East Coast friends still, but after living here for about two months now I am really starting to feel like a Californian. It certainly helps that I have a lemon tree growing in my new back yard. I love our new back yard, and that I can walk in the grass out there with no shoes on. I couldn't do that in my old back yard because of the deer ticks, which are everywhere, and so small that you can barely see them. I also love our new house, which is perfect for my whole family, and my new neighborhood, too. I have never lived in a neighborhood before where I could see cows and horses while out for a walk or a bike ride.

I have now started fifth grade at Vintage Hills Elementary School. I already have two friends in my class. They remind me of my friends in Wilton because they are both smart and kind. I like my teacher too, Mrs. Crawford. She seems like the kind of teacher who tries hard to be an excellent teacher instead of just going through the motions all day long. I once had that kind of teacher and am relieved that Mrs. Crawford is nothing like her. I know I will have a fun and challenging year at school, and Pleasanton is really starting to feel like home. ■



Katie Lyness began school in Pleasanton last Tuesday.

## The Maltese Falcon loose in Pleasanton

*Local librarians ask for public's help in "finding stolen item"*

Attention! The Maltese Falcon has gone missing and the staff at the Pleasanton Library believes it was stolen.

Librarians are asking for the public's help in finding the black bird, which has been covertly hidden at a shop on Main Street—wink, wink.

The search is part of the city-wide Big Read, featuring "The Maltese Falcon" by Dashiell Hammett. The event is free and sleuths are eligible to win dinner for two at John's Grill in San Francisco, a mystery dinner at The Pleasanton Hotel or a replica of the Maltese Falcon.

Those interested in the search can come to the library booth set up at the First Wednesday Street Party between 6 and 9 p.m. on Sept. 5.

—Janet Pelletier



Pleasanton Library

Museum docent Iva Archery (Vicki Stadelhofer), town gossip Brigid O'Shamelessly (P.J. Overholt), hotel waitress Samantha Spade (Susan Warner) and a concerned citizen known as "Cairo" (Mike Melvin), witnessed the falcon theft.

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## McNerney praises Pleasanton planning, high-tech emphasis

*Congressman sees region's future as research center for biofuels, business*

by Jeb Bing

In back-to-back presentations made over the past week, Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) said Pleasanton and his 11th Congressional District are poised to be the research centers of a new era of high technology developments in alternative fuels, education and businesses.

Speaking to the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce Tuesday, McNerney said Pleasanton's quality of life, focus on good schools and smart planning by today's local officials and those who served in years gone by is what brought him and his wife Mary to move her from Massachusetts in 1990.

"This is a wonderful town, it has a great environment, it's good for business and it's everything we want to keep and work for in the future," he said.

A businessman who never aspired to try for a political office, he was encouraged to seek the Democratic nomination in 2004 for Congress when his son pointed out that no one was on board to go against the incumbent, Republican Richard Pombo. Although he lost, McNerney tried again last year



McNerney speaks to seniors at Pleasanton Gardens.

and won strong local, regional and national support, ousting Pombo in a hard-fought campaign to become Pleasanton's first-ever representative in Congress.

McNerney also spoke last Friday at a meeting of the Valley Marketing Association of Realtors and real estate professionals, and again Saturday to seniors at Pleasanton Gardens. In all presentations, he talked about the need to decrease the country's dependence on foreign oil through the development of alternative energy, including wind, which was his specialty, as well as solar and biofuels. As a member of the Congressional Transportation and Infrastructure, Science and Veterans committees,

McNerney plans to focus on new legislation to encourage energy alternatives in the year ahead.

"When I'm back home during recess and almost every weekend, I travel back and forth between Pleasanton and constituent meetings in the San Joaquin Valley," McNerney said. "So I know how congested I-580 is each morning and afternoon. We have to develop a transportation infrastructure that will handle the inevitable growth in the Valley and the influx of people as well as the influx of transport carriers that are taking cargo through here to destinations throughout the U.S."

(continued on page 11)

## Improvements

(continued from page 5)

took over the old film photography room. An additional gas kiln and electric kiln and a Raku kiln were added inside an enlarged masonry block just outside the classrooms. Art and social studies classrooms were moved to give Amador the space for ceramics. There an additional gas kiln was added inside an enlarged masonry block outside of the classrooms.

Jim Ott, school board president, noted that in the digital age, the growing popularity of ceramics shows that kids "still want to get their hands dirty."

The catering class at Amador has also grown in popularity. Modeled after the successful program at Village High School, students learn how to prepare and cook food and often sell their work to the school staff. A modernization of the home economics facilities was completed in January. Updates included a second cooking class with a commercial stove, remodeling of the existing home economics classroom and a separate sewing classroom.

The majority of the food service improvements at Foothill were completed last spring, but students now have a comfortable place to eat with the addition of the shade structure. The massive metal and blue canvas structure covers tables in the courtyard by stretching 30 feet by 90 feet.



Amador Valley High School Principal Bill Coupe stands in front of the commercial oven for the catering class with Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Sandra Lepley and Public Information Officer Myla Grasso during the school facilities tour.

New Principal John Dwyer said everyone really enjoys it because it's the first campus fixture to showcase the school's colors.

At Donlon Elementary School, fences still line the 9-acre fields that connect the back of the school with the outlying residential community. The school board trustees joked that before renovation began, kids would get lost in the hard, clay soil cracks. With improved soil and drainage and an upgraded irrigation system, the new grass field needs more time to deeply root. The project was a \$1.2 million joint effort by the city and school dis-

trict. While it may look more than ready to use, it will only be open for school use starting this week. The public will be able to enjoy it once the fences come down, which is scheduled for next spring.

Also included in the facilities updating at were repaving and repainting the visitor parking lot and a roof replacement at Foothill paid for with deferred maintenance funds. Hart Middle School's library also needed remodeling as it couldn't accommodate all of the students. This and most of the projects were funded by capital facilities (developer) funds. ■

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This aerial photo shows the Oak Grove land in the southeast hills near Kottinger Ranch, Grey Eagle Estates and Vintage Hills.

## Oak Grove

(continued from page 5)

Vintage Hills, Kottinger Ranch and Grey Eagle Estates communities have said a size limit on the custom homes of 12,500 square feet is too large and doesn't fit in with the surrounding area. They also contend that the homes would be on visible ridgetops, destroying their views.

Grey Eagle residents have said they're worried about liability in relation to an emergency access road that would be extended to Oak Grove through their gated community. The city has retained an easement at the end of Grey Eagle Court since the community was built in the early 1980s. In the Grey Eagle homeowners' association rules, homeowners own the land extending to the middle of the street.

The city has said that it would provide indemnification should a situation occur on the private property.

Leuschel said there have been concessions made and yet still residents' requests have been unfair. "How could you compromise?" she said. "You can't have access for

emergency vehicles? If you move the (home) lots, now you've made a couple people happy, but you're ruining the park. If you're taking them here and you're putting them over here, you're ruining the experience of 99 percent of the people so that these two individuals had a somewhat better view, although we believe that with the design guidelines that their homes won't be adversely affected."

She said they have looked at other EVA road possibilities but chose Grey Eagle because the city owns an easement there and officials with the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department say they like that route. Other fire roads will include through Benedict Court and Hearst Drive. The road through Benedict Court leads to a water tank.

"One thing that hasn't been brought up that we're hoping to bring up at the meeting is what happens if there's a fire in Grey Eagle?" Leuschel said. "They can have equal benefit to get out through Oak Grove that they don't have right now. They're in this gate-guarded community, we're just feet away."

Defending claims that the homes would be large and obtrusive,

Leuschel said the homes wouldn't be built straight up and down, rather they would be built on a sliding scale on sloping hillsides to appear less massive.

"You can't build a Taj Mahal. It's against the rules," she said.

She added that there are seven lots where a 12,500-square-foot home could be built. The cap on the majority of homes would be between 6,000 and 9,000 square feet, she said.

Five design examples of homes that could be built on the lots are on the Oak Grove Web site, [www.oakgrovepleasanton.com](http://www.oakgrovepleasanton.com). They are scaled at 7,000 square feet. Leuschel said they were designed by a former mayor of Tiburon and Belvedere and strictly follow the design guidelines. She added that each home that's built in Oak Grove will have to individually go through the planning approval process before anything's constructed. The homes are not part of the project going before the City Council Tuesday; the approval of the 51 lots are.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal Ave. ■

## Of Note

### Wal-Mart employees go to Pebble Beach

Two local Wal-Mart employees headed to the Wal-Mart First Tee Open in Pebble Beach Monday for their work with The First Tee chapter in Pleasanton. Kathy Freitas and Cecilialoki Chang were awarded a trip to the Wal-Mart-sponsored tournament. The two were recognized at a send-off ceremony last Saturday at the Pleasanton store.

The First Tee is a World Golf Foundation initiative dedicated to providing youths of all backgrounds an opportunity to develop, through golf and character education, life-enhancing values such as

honesty, integrity and sportsmanship. Chapters of The First Tee are nonprofits that are licensed to use The First Tee curriculum.

For information on The First Tee, visit [www.thefirsttee.org](http://www.thefirsttee.org). The tournament continues through this Sunday in Pebble Beach.

### Pleasanton educators visit NYC's Museum of Jewish Heritage

Last week, Eileen Vergino and Martha Jenson, educators at Congregation Beth Emek, joined more than 20 other educators for a three-day workshop Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust in New York City. During their visit, they learned to implement the Living Museum, an interactive program

that teaches students to make connections between their own lives and Jewish history through the study of family artifacts. They also discussed how to teach from objects, curate their own Living Museum exhibitions with their fellow educators, photograph artifacts, write labels, and upload images, which they will in turn share with their students.

Over the course of the semester-long program, fifth and sixth grade students learn about artifacts, find a family artifact from home, research it by interviewing family members, and present it to the class. As a group, the students in the classroom organize their artifacts into galleries and present them as a museum exhibition as the culminating activity of the program.

Visit [www.living-museum.org](http://www.living-museum.org) for more information.

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## Safeway

(continued from page 5)

The largest Whole Foods Market in the western U.S. just opened in Cupertino and, like the proposed new Safeway in Pleasanton, is two-to-three times bigger than conventional supermarkets with 68,000-square-foot of specialty foods, including a dine-in Market Bistro, Culinary Center and over 200 seats for indoor/outdoor eating.

Whole Foods is now considered by

supermarket analysts as the world's leading natural and organic foods supermarket and America's first national certified organic retailer.

The prototype Safeway store proposed for Pleasanton would follow the same consumer formula, according to those who have discussed the plans with Safeway and South Bay. It would be conveniently located next to the freeway-Bernal interchange, an easy stop for commuters and also an easy drive on Valley and Bernal avenues and Foothill Road from most city neighborhoods.

South Bay acquired the 35-acre parcel as part of the purchase of the Bernal property by Greenbriar Homes and associates in 2000 from the city of San Francisco. The Greenbriar consortium paid \$126 million for the 510-acre parcel, with South Bay taking the acreage. At the time, Greenbriar and KB Home received approvals to build 581 homes and apartments on their portion of the property, with an agreement that 318 acres would be

given free of charge to the city of Pleasanton. The homes and apartments have been built, with a few still under construction west of the 680 freeway. Pleasanton is just now building three lighted baseball fields on its parkland. South Bay, which had approval to build eight four-story office buildings, was granted an extension of its planning approval after the office market collapsed in 2001 and South Bay decided to postpone the construc-

tion project.

The seven office buildings shown on the Master Site Plan for the Pleasanton Gateway Retail/Office Plaza, as the plan is labeled by City Hall, would include four buildings at 93,125 square feet and three smaller ones at the south end of the property at 72,000 square feet.

City Manager Fialho said that the city expects the plans to be formally considered and processed in public hearings early in 2008. ■

## You've got good taste

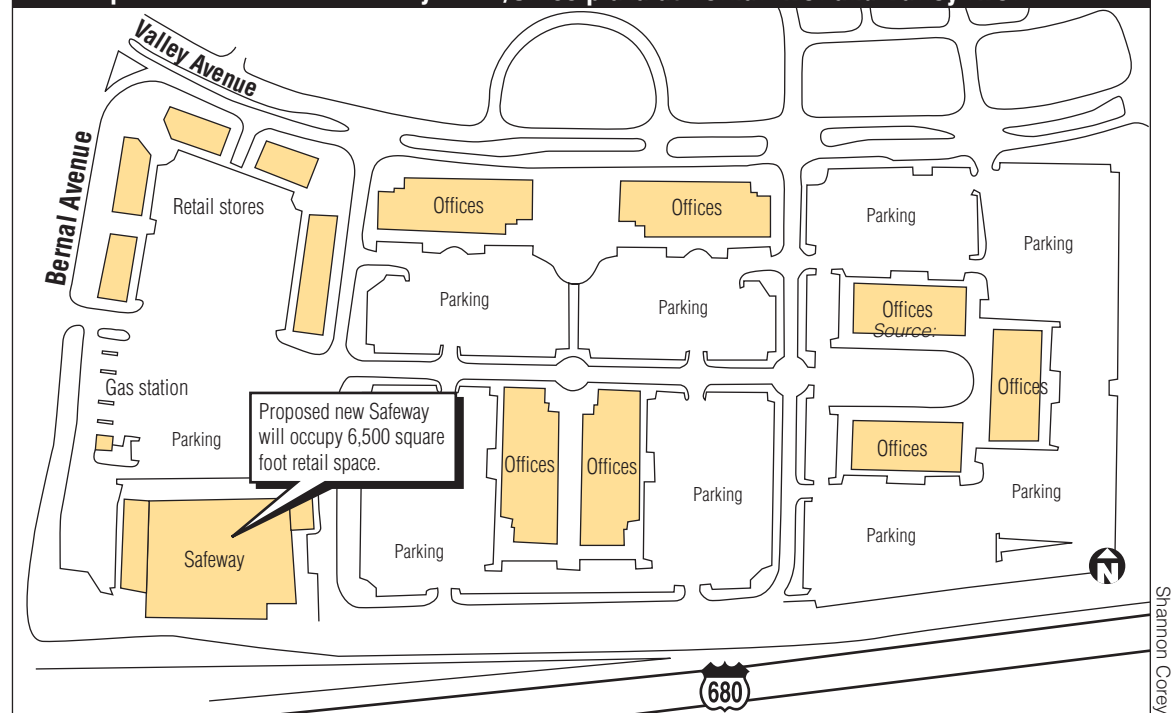
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### Proposed Pleasanton Gateway retail/office plaza at Bernal Ave. and Valley Ave.



## Harvest Wine Celebration expects 12,000 this weekend

Popular Livermore Valley wine tour features new and old, including Pleasanton's Mitchell Katz

Approximately 12,000 wine lovers will venture to the Livermore Valley wine country this Labor Day weekend to sample from up to 36 different local wineries.

The always-popular Harvest Wine Celebration will be held from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday and Monday. It's an annual celebration where guests can taste various blends of wine, eat hors d'oeuvres, listen to live music performances, meet the winemakers, peruse artisan booths and take in the scenic beauty of the burgeoning wine destination that the Valley has become.

In its 26th year, this year there will be 36 wineries participating, including Pleasanton's Mitchell Katz Winery in Ruby Hill. Some local vintners will also be showcasing their wines at Campo di Bocci, at the corner of Isabel and Vineyard avenues.

Participants are encouraged to buy a two-day ticket because it offers a chance to see more wineries and not feel so rushed, according to Roberta Klugman, a spokeswoman for the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association, which hosts the event.

Shuttle buses will be available for participants to travel to different tasting venues. The main transportation hub where guests can board is in Robertson Park in Livermore.



A participant in last year's Harvest Wine Celebration tastes a red wine at Mitchell Katz Winery in Ruby Hill.

In total, there will be seven shuttle routes people can take.

Two of the newest wineries in the region, Les Chenes Estate Vineyards (which will be pouring at Campo di Bocce) and Deer Ridge Vineyards, have joined in this year's celebration with past participants.

Tickets are \$35 in advance for a two-day ticket; \$40 at the event. A one-day pass for Monday is \$30.

For those who don't drink, a ticket is \$5. Admission includes wine tasting, program guide, a commemorative wine glass and a wristband.

For a complete list of wineries, more information about the event or for tickets, visit [www.livermorewine.com](http://www.livermorewine.com). Tickets can also be purchased at The Wine Steward, 641 Main St. in Pleasanton.

—Janet Pelletier

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## First Wednesday Street Party wraps up next week

*Festivities include Tommy and the 4 Speeds, Wells Fargo stagecoach*

Downtown Pleasanton's popular street parties celebrated on the first Wednesdays of summer months will wind down, with the last party from 5 to 10 p.m. Sept. 5. The Pleasanton Downtown Association is sad to see the fun times go, so this Wednesday's party will be themed "Summer Blues."

But the mood will be anything but dreary as Tommy and the 4 Speeds, who performed recently at the Friday Concerts in the Park series, will rev up partygoers with '50s and '60s rock 'n' roll sounds from the beer and wine garden in the Round Table Pizza parking lot.

Another featured festivity will be the Wells Fargo stagecoach at the corner of St. John and Main streets. People are invited to hop on board to get a photo taken.

As always with the First Wednesday Street Party, vendor booths will line Main Street showcasing local services, products, nonprofit groups and organizations, and restaurants.

Sponsoring the last hurrah before next summer is Anheuser-Busch, Trumer Pils and MOVin 99.7 (KFRC).

For more information, visit [www.pleasantondowntown.net](http://www.pleasantondowntown.net).

—Emily Atwood

## McNerney

(continued from page 8)

"If we don't" we'll have a gridlock situation that will limit our growth potential and ability to continue to prosper," he added.

He said he has been encouraged in his visits to Foothill and Amador Valley high schools and discussions with students.

"The interest I see on these campuses bodes well for the future of this area in developing new energy technologies and other products that will help us in the fight to reverse global warming," he said. "With global warming, there are going to be winners and losers. We want to make sure our children are the winners and that this community comes out ahead with the technology and international leadership to move our nation and this District forward."

Asked about Iraq during his Pleasanton Gardens presentation, McNerney said we went to Iraq for the wrong reason and it's our responsibility to bring the troops home as soon as possible.

"These troops are risking their lives," he said. "They don't want to be there, our people don't want them there. It's time for them to come home." ■



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Italian-American Heritage Guild  
This unidentified woman shells peas in her East Bay home.



Magnani Poultry  
Angelino, Giulio and Alberto Magnani prepare chicken crates for their business, Magnani Poultry, in Oakland circa 1935.



Joseph DeNurra family  
Maria Ferro DeNurra, a seamstress, works from her 40th Street North Oakland home circa 1945.



Dorothy Rossi  
Tomaso Franco (center) rides off to work with fellow unidentified workers in this photo taken circa 1920.



Salvatore Riele and the Carlo DiStefano family  
Carol DiStefano (right) owned the Garibaldi Original Tamale Restaurant, which he ran with his wife Giuseppina (r-l) and sons Joseph, Ciro, Vincenzo and Rosolion in Oakland. The restaurant is one example of how culturally diverse the East Bay became with immigration as it sold ravioli, tamales and French fries side by side.



Joseph DeNurra family  
Joseph DeNurra (center) uses an electric cutting machine in the early 1930s on the cutting room of a garment factory.



Ray Raineri and Jennifer Dowling  
Mary Piasenti and Mary Guiliano assemble generator equipment for U.S. bombers at the defense plant in Oakland circa 1942.

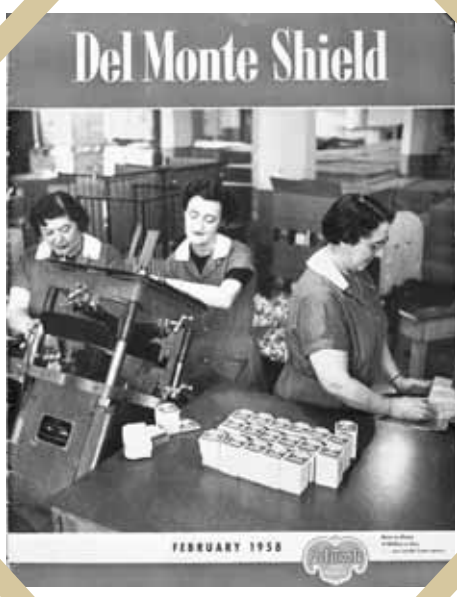


Pamela Harris, California State Library  
 These farm workers marched from King City to Salinas in support of the 1979 United Farm Workers lettuce strike and boycott.



Pamela Harris, California State Library  
 Farm worker activist Cesar Chavez led many boycotts and marches for worker rights throughout the 1960s and 1970s.

Del Monte Foods and Marianne Spingolo  
 Lizzie Russo (far right) die-cuts labels for catsup at the Del Monte Cannery in Oakland in 1958.



California Federation of Teachers  
 This mural by Anton Refregier depicts a torch light procession through San Francisco in 1868 celebrating the passage of the law creating an eight-hour work day.

# Why we celebrate Labor Day

Library exhibits, event honor worker history

Labor Day, often seen as the unofficial end of summer and, at one point in time, the beginning of the school year, is this Monday and people around Pleasanton are taking advantage of the three-day weekend by going on short trips or inviting friends over for that last summer barbecue.

While we may lament how this “three-day weekend” mentality takes away from the reverence of other Monday holidays, such as Memorial Day or Veterans Day, the casual attitude is actually quite appropriate for Labor Day. The first Monday of September officially became Labor Day in 1882 after several key labor unions lobbied to have a day to recognize the working man. The first Labor Day parade went through New York City that year, and the rest is history.

However, there are options for those looking to learn a little more about labor history and honor the day. The

Pleasanton Public Library will celebrate Labor Day this weekend with a reception highlighting its recent acquisition of two exhibits honoring workers.

The first, titled “California’s Labor History,” is a traveling exhibit developed jointly by the California Exhibition Resources Alliance and the California State Library. The exhibit explores how California’s labor history affects the state’s economic, social and community development today.

The second is the “CON LE NOSTRE MANI” exhibit, which translates from Italian to “With Our Hands.” This photography exhibit specifically highlights the work and contributions of Italian-Americans in the East Bay from 1890 to 1960, with many of the 150 photos coming from local residents’ personal collections. The library previously showed this exhibit, organized by the Italian-American Heritage Guild, and brought it back to run in tandem with

“California’s Labor History.”

“There are great pictures of workers in the East Bay,” said Penny Johnson, coordinator of adult programs at the library. “People who grew up in Oakland and Richmond will probably recognize some photos.”

Both shows have been on display since mid August and will close Sept. 16.

On Sunday, the community can view both exhibits at the library while enjoying jazz music played by The Jonathan Stein Jazz Trio and traditional Italian appetizers from 2 to 4 p.m.

“It’s really three events rolled into one,” Johnson said. On the cover and these pages are a few of the historical photos currently on display at the library and photos that are part of the larger “CON LE NOSTRE MANI” collection.

—Rebecca Guyon

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# Opinion

## Editorial

### Mayor, City Council deserve pay raises, first in 18 years

If anyone deserves a raise, it's our elected officials who sit on the city council and serve as mayor who haven't had one since December 1990. We support Ordinance No. 1957, which the full City Council will vote on Tuesday night, raising the mayor's monthly salary from \$600 to \$1,050 and from \$500 to \$950 for council members. The pay raise goes into effect in December 2008 after a new city council and mayor are elected and then seated on the first Tuesday in that month. Two council members—Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Jerry Thorne—who were elected to four-year terms last November, will receive the raise because they're staying on the council. The other three, including Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and Council members Cindy McGovern and Matt Sullivan, are eligible to seek re-election next year, which means they could also be on the new council if they run and win.

A few residents oppose the increase and are voicing their opinions on the Pleasanton Weekly's Town Square online forum, which can be accessed at [www.pleasantonweekly.com](http://www.pleasantonweekly.com). While it's true that the raises seem "gigantic," as blogger Jack Hovingh claims, the raise would be much less noticeable if Pleasanton officials followed Dublin's formula. That formula automatically grants the council and mayor the state-allotted 5 percent annual increase each year, again with the actual increase given with the election and swearing in of the new council every two years. Livermore does the same and San Ramon may go one step farther. A proposal is being considered to make San Ramon a charter city with a full time paid mayor and with control for stipends and salaries for elected and appointed officials left up to the City Council and voters, unregulated by state laws governing General Law cities such as Pleasanton.

Generally, City Council salaries are determined by population. When Pleasanton reached a population of 50,000 in 1989, state law allowed council members to be paid \$500. The state also allows a mayor to earn \$100 more per month. Those salaries are the ones that went into effect in 1990 and have not changed since. Besides their monthly salaries, most cities also provide a city-paid health benefit package with Kaiser to City Council members and the mayor during the time they serve. It used to be that long-serving council members could earn lifetime benefits after 15 or so years of service, but the state discontinued that option several years ago. Term limits, which restrict the mayor to no more than four consecutive two-year terms and council members to no more than two four-year terms, also blocked the service longevity needed to win lifetime benefits.

Although the raises being voted on Tuesday make for a high percentage increase, since they're the first in 18 years, they're actually below what they could have been if the raises followed the Dublin formula with raises each year compounded. Council members and the mayor regularly put in 20 hours a week on official city business. We think \$950 a month for council members and \$1,050 for our mayor is well deserved compensation for the work they perform.

## Letters

### Oak Grove or ridgetop mansions?

Dear Editor,

Oak Grove proposes to build massive (12,500 square feet) two- and three-story houses on the tops of some of the city's most visible ridgelines.

These monster structures will not only be visible from over a hundred locations in the neighboring Grey Eagle, Vintage Hills and Kottinger Ranch neighborhoods, but will also be visible, silhouetted against the sky, to half of the new Bernal property city park, the houses on the Bernal property, Foothill Road, the houses on the Pleasanton Ridge, Augustin-Bernal Park, the entire grandstand and golf course at the fairgrounds, Moller Ranch, I-680, I-580, the Busch property homes, Bernal Avenue, Valley Avenue, Stanley Boulevard, and hundreds of places in between.

The proposed mitigation to soften the jarring prominence of these domineering structures is to plant 15 gallon oak trees outside the property lines. Unfortunately, many of the lots' property lines are more than 30 feet below the foundations of these proposed houses, rendering the screening effect nonexistent.

If the housing element of this project was so acceptable to the people of Pleasanton, why have the applicant and the planning department refused for over two years to accurately depict the visual impacts of this project on our city?

Remember, this is the same applicant that just proposed four 16- to 21-story "skyscraper" condominium towers in southeast Dublin that you will also have to look at. Good neighbor? I don't think so!

Please urge the City Council not to approve this project in its current form at the Sept. 4 meeting.

Lee Fulton  
Pleasanton

### Ex-mayor supports Oak Grove

Dear Editor,

Pleasanton residents, please voice your support for the Oak Grove development project at the Sept. 4 City Council meeting. As a consultant to the property owner, I truly believe we have created an environmentally superior development proposal that will be welcomed by the community.

In 1993 I helped collect signatures and defeat the original project on this property, which I felt was an environmental disaster. This time around, the city set up a facilitated communication process including city, property owner representatives and neighboring homeowners resulting in the proposed "environmentally preferred alternative."

Pleasanton's residents get: a gift

of a 496-acre nature park with convenient public access trails preserved forever by conservation easements; model green building guidelines applied to the new homes, and hundreds of thousands of property tax revenue dollars. Approval of Oak Grove establishes a key southern cornerstone for protecting open space and further bolsters a permanent green belt around our city.

With this proposal, Kottinger Ranch and adjacent homeowners get fewer homes, reduced traffic, environmental and sightline impacts, safety improvements, home size limits, the opportunity to challenge plans for each future home and an end to uncertainty over future Oak Grove property development.

The property owner can create and sell 51 custom estate lots within the Urban Growth Boundary, and incurs the obligation to: build the trail system and staging areas before selling the fifth lot; establish 20 off-site affordable housing units; pay extra off-site mitigation expenses; and donate 496 acres of land to the city.

It's a good compromise.

Tom Pico  
Former mayor of Pleasanton

### A 'beef' over fairgrounds' BBQ event

Dear Editor,

After hearing KFOG promote the Bay Area Barbecue Cook Off (Aug. 18 event at the Alameda County Fairgrounds), my wife and I drove from Oakland to Pleasanton on Saturday for some tasty barbecue.

What a disaster! Arriving at 4 p.m., we paid the \$8 parking fee. Once inside, the food lines were 75 people deep. We quickly learned that people were waiting 2 1/2 hours in line to order their food! In addition, most of the stands had run out of chicken and beef.

We promptly left but when we tried to get our \$8 back, the sympathetic parking attendant told us she couldn't refund the money despite a flood of complaints. And she said her boss had reprimanded her earlier in the day when she began warning drivers about the long waits. My primary "beef" isn't with the poorly-organized festival, but with the Alameda County Fairgrounds, which refused to refund the cost of parking and knowingly accepted parking fees from soon-to-be disgruntled customers. This is one festival I'll never again attend.

P.S. We satisfied our hunger at a San Ramon barbecue joint, which was packed with fellow festival-goers. And unlike the festival, there was plenty of food.

David Kligman  
Oakland

# Guest Opinion

## Yes to Oak Grove

by Marty Inderbitzen

On Sept. 4, the Pleasanton City Council has a chance to save Pleasanton's southeast hills by accepting a "gift" of a nature park twice as large as Augustin-Bernal and creating a cornerstone of public open space along our town's southern boundary.



If approved, Oak Grove would limit development on 562 acres to 66 acres and dedicate 496 acres of open space to the city after building a staging area and miles of hiking, biking and horse trails. The number of custom lots proposed has been halved from 98 to 51. All but 58 of the 12,000 oak trees on the property will be preserved. The city's Environmental Impact Report (EIR) determined that the current proposal is the environmentally superior alternative.

The plan is the result of three years of environmental review and compromise. Oak Grove is supported by the Kottinger Ranch Homeowners Association, parks and trails advocates, community leaders and thousands of Pleasanton residents. Oak Grove is opposed by a few immediate neighbors who complain about views of the project from their backyards, even though the plan has been revised to remove 18 lots closest to them. One of these neighbors took out a full page ad in last week's Pleasanton Weekly grossly misrepresenting the project.

Yet, even this handful of naysayers cannot publicly oppose a 51-lot proposal with a 496-acre public nature park. Who could? Rather, they raise "concerns" about their views and raise red-herring arguments like the camera lens used in visual simulations, oversized homes and tree loss—none of which is true.

In fact, not one house of any size would be approved under the proposal. Instead, the City Council will be asked to approve the Oak Grove property owners' right to build 51 custom lots and the nature park. People who buy the custom lots will be required to design their own houses under extremely strict design guidelines. The city would review the impacts of each future home, including detailed visual simulations, and approve each proposed home only after allowing the very neighbors who express concern to comment. The city's EIR concluded that future homes will be visible to only a few immediate neighbors, and that these local impacts can be minimized through design controls.

The Oak Grove property owner, the city staff and its consultants all believe the design guidelines will work to minimize local views of the new homes and create quality homes. However, city staff is recommending another requirement—Floor Area Ratios (FARs)—to establish an upper limit to the square footage for all structures on the lots. Whenever possible, the 51 custom lots have been designed to preserve both existing land forms and mature on-lot trees to screen the views of future homes. And, the 58 trees that would be removed to build the roads and create the lots will be replaced by 410 new oak trees to extend existing groves.

Please join parks advocates, community leaders and our neighbors in supporting Oak Grove and saving open space in our southeast hills.

*Marty Inderbitzen is an attorney with expertise in real estate and business transactions. He has co-managed the entitlement processing for the Lin family, which owns the Oak Grove property, for the past 15 years. A lifelong resident of Pleasanton, Inderbitzen lives in Kottinger Ranch.*

# Talking Points

by Gina Channell-Allen



## A matter of respect

*Journalists balance public's need to know and right to privacy*

The issue of privacy came up last week under the strangest of circumstances.

When most people think of media and privacy issues, they think of the subjects of news stories and even some sources. The situation the Pleasanton Weekly had last week involved privacy of one of our advertising clients.

A full-page advertisement ran in the Aug. 24 edition concerning the proposed Oak Grove development. The Pleasanton Weekly journalists did exactly what was expected when they saw the proof of the advertisement—they researched the group in order to report on it. When it came time to contact the group, the reporter covering the story asked our advertising department for the contact person who placed the ad.

But, because the person who placed the ad didn't go to our editorial department and offer his or her identity, we have to assume the editorial department did not have expressed permission to report that information. To publish the name of the person who placed the ad without the permission of the individual would have been, in my opinion, a breach of trust.

The editorial and advertising departments of a newspaper are separate entities with an "invisible wall" between the two. Just as we would never share client informa-

tion with a third party, we should not share between departments without expressed permission.

Journalists struggle with the balancing act between the public's right to know (or need to know) and minimizing harm to individuals directly involved in the story. When there is an issue of privacy, a journalist should first ask himself or herself if the information is imperative to the story. If the story will be incomplete without that information, or if there are other justifiable reasons why the information should be pursued, then a journalist should determine whether or not there is an alternative approach to the story, such as focusing on an organization or institution as opposed to an individual.

In the case of the Oak Grove ad, we were able to get information from a source other than the individual who placed the ad and it all worked out fine. However, what if the person who placed the ad was a public official or public figure? Should that make a difference in the way we handle the story?

What is your opinion?

*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](mailto:gallen@pleasantonweekly.com).*

## Your Turn

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

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

Submitting a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Pleasanton Weekly and Embarcadero Publishing Company to also publish it online, including in our online archives and as a post on Town Square.

For more information contact Editor Jeb Bing at (925) 600-0840.

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### Code of ethics

The Pleasanton Weekly seeks to adhere to the highest level of ethical standards in journalism, including the Code of Ethics adopted Sept. 21, 1996, by the Society of Professional Journalists. To review the text of the Code, please visit our web site at [www.PleasantonWeekly.com](http://www.PleasantonWeekly.com)

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**WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES**

**City Council**

Tuesday, September 4, 2007  
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Consider second reading and adoption of Ordinance No. 1957 amending Section 2.04.020 of the Municipal Code concerning salaries for the Mayor and Councilmembers
- Consider approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department Joint Powers Authority and the International Association of Firefighters Local 1974 for the term August 1, 2007 – July 31, 2010
- Public Hearing: PUD-33, James Tong/Charter Properties, Jennifer Lin, Frederic Lin, and Kevin Lin – Consideration of: (1) the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Oak Grove development; (2) an application for a PUD development plan for the Oak Grove development to subdivide an approximately 562 acre site into 51 custom home sites and to designate the remaining area for permanent open space; and (3) the Development Agreement to vest the entitlements covered by this application. The property is located at 1400 Hearst Drive, near the present terminus of Hearst Drive on the southerly sides of the Vintage Hills and the Grey Eagle Estates developments and is zoned PUD RDR/OS (Planned Unit Development – Rural Density Residential/Open Space) District
- Consider approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Alameda, City of Pleasanton, CEMEX and Granite Construction Co. concerning the relocation of Granite's existing asphalt plant on CEMEX property to another site on the CEMEX property

**Planning Commission**

- The special planning commission meeting scheduled for September 6 has been cancelled. The regular planning commission meeting on September 12 has also been cancelled.

**Civic Arts Commission**

- The September 3, 2007 Civic Arts Commission meeting has been rescheduled to September 10, 2007.

**Human Services Commission**

- Review of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for Fiscal Year 2006
- FY 2006/07 City Grant/Contract Service Agreement Mandatory Final Performance Report Review
- FY 2006/07 Youth/Senior Scholarship Program Use Report

**Library Commission**

- The next Library Commission meeting is scheduled for September 13th.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Due to the Labor Day Holiday, City Offices will be closed Monday, September 3rd.

**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/gingerbread-preschool.html](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/recreation/gingerbread-preschool.html)

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

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

# Community Pulse

## Police Bulletin

### Thefts from cars on the rise

Officer Penelope Tamm of the Pleasanton Police Department reported 29 thefts from cars over the last month. While she cites no trends, most of them occurred during the evening or between late night and early morning. Common stolen items include stereos, iPods, cameras and wallets.

"The most disturbing factor is that half of the vehicles were unlocked," Tamm said, urging that residents remove valuables and lock their cars every time they are parked.

### Armed robbery at Santa Rita Shell

Two men, one brandishing a semi-automatic handgun, robbed a Shell gas station at 6750 Santa Rita Road Aug. 24, according to police. The report said one of the suspects pushed another customer standing at the counter to the floor as they took an undisclosed amount of cash from the register and left the store.

The suspects were described as black males wearing baggy jeans, with one wearing a bandana over his face and the other wearing a dark, puffy jacket. They were last seen leaving eastbound on Interstate 580 in a blue or brown minivan with stick figure decals on the rear window.

Police said no one was injured during the incident and that undisclosed evidence was recovered from the scene.

## Police Report

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

**August 19**

- Theft:
  - 2:37 a.m. in the 400 block of Main Street; stolen vehicle
  - 9:25 a.m. in the 900 block of Main Street; buying stolen property
  - 11:50 a.m. in the 1500 block of East Gate Way; stolen vehicle
  - 12:31 p.m. in the 1600 block of East Gate Way; stolen vehicle
  - 12:45 p.m. in the 4500 block of Sandalwood Drive; petty theft
  - 4:21 p.m. in the 7800 block of Flagstone Drive; petty theft
- Vandalism:
  - 8:13 p.m. in the 600 block of Rose Avenue
- Vehicular burglary:
  - 6:01 p.m. in the 1300 block of Valley Avenue
  - 7:57 p.m. in the 8200 block of Golden Eagle Way
- Drug/alcohol violations:
  - 12:11 a.m. at the intersection of Silver Street and Santa Rita Road; underage DUI
  - 12:46 a.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge and Johnson drives; driving with marijuana
  - 2:07 a.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Rosewood Drive; public drunkenness
  - 2:35 a.m. at the intersection of Muirwood Drive and Alder Court; public drunkenness
- Assault:
  - 3:35 p.m. in the 700 block of Rose Avenue
- Mental health danger:
  - 9:54 a.m. in the 1400 block of Ridgewood Road
  - 12:47 p.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

**August 20**

- Theft:
  - 4:26 a.m. in the 5000 block of Forest Hill Drive; stolen vehicle
  - 8:41 a.m. in the 4800 block of Wingate Drive; petty theft
  - 9:22 a.m. in the 5800 block of Owens Drive; grand theft
  - 11:15 a.m. in the 700 block of

- Bonita Avenue; petty theft
- 2:45 p.m. in the 3200 block of Novara Way; petty theft
- 6:11 p.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue; identity theft

• Vandalism:

- 11:33 a.m. in the 1700 block of Foothill Road; worth over \$400
- 11:54 a.m. in the 4200 block of Hacienda Drive
- 12:31 p.m. in the 3400 block of National Park Road; worth over \$400

• Burglary:

- 4:33 a.m. in the 2500 block of Arlotta Place; vehicular
- 5:07 a.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Court
- 5:29 a.m. in the 2900 block of Victoria Meadow Court; vehicular

• Mental health danger:

- 4:53 p.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

**August 21**

- Theft:
  - 7:17 a.m. in the 1000 block of Harvest Circle; identity theft
  - 10:09 a.m. in the 5000 block of Hopyard Road; grand theft
  - 11:04 a.m. in the 4300 block of Bristolwood Road; grand theft
  - 3:58 p.m. in the 2600 block of Calle Reynoso; identity theft
  - 4:16 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting
  - 10:24 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; identity theft
- Vandalism:
  - 9:01 a.m. in the 4900 block of Pleasanton Avenue; worth less than \$400
  - 11:14 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road; worth over \$400
  - 9:56 p.m. in the 3800 block of Antonini Way; worth over \$400

• Vehicular burglary:

- 9:01 a.m. in the 4900 block of Pleasanton Avenue

• Drug/alcohol violations:

- 2:24 p.m. in the 900 block of Division Street; DUI
- 4:05 p.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Greenwood Road; public drunkenness
- 11:16 p.m. in the 500 block of St. John Street; public drunkenness

• Other:

- 2:30 a.m. in the 4400 block of Valley Avenue; minor out past curfew
- 10:53 a.m. in the 1300 block of Santa Rita Road; annoying phone calls
- 1:33 p.m. in the 2500 block of Secretariat Drive; violent threats

**August 22**

- Theft:
  - 10:17 a.m. in the 1500 block of Calle Santa Anna
  - 6:37 p.m. in the 600 block of Windmill Lane; identity theft
- Burglary:
  - 8:24 a.m. in the 5000 block of Hopyard Road; vehicular
  - 8:34 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; vehicular
  - 11:41 p.m. in the 1200 block of Valley Avenue
- Drug/alcohol violations:
  - 9:52 a.m. in the 5300 block of Owens Court; DUI
  - 5:05 p.m. in the 4300 block of First Street; drinking in public

- Other:
  - 8:52 p.m. in the 1800 block of Spumante Place; violent threats
  - 1:40 p.m. in the 4700 block of Muirwood Drive; found property
  - 8:00 pm. In the 5800 block of Parkside Drive

**August 23**

- Theft:
  - 3:47 p.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
  - 8:30 p.m. in the 4900 block of Johnson Drive; stolen vehicle
- Vandalism:
  - 8:02 a.m. in the 7400 block of Alder court; worth over \$400
  - 11:16 a.m. in the 7300 block of Tulipwood Circle; worth less than \$400
- Burglary:
  - 3:47 p.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Drug/alcohol violations:
  - 2:46 a.m. at the intersection of Foothill Road and Jorgensen Lane; controlled substance possession
  - 2:00 p.m. at the intersection of Stanley Boulevard and Reflections Drive; paraphernalia possession, under the influence of a controlled substance

# Transitions

## Obituaries

### Anthony Joseph "Joe" Monahan

Anthony Joseph "Joe" Monahan died in Valencia, Calif. from complications of late stage Alzheimer's disease July 21 at the age of 72.

An active Pleasanton community member for nearly 30 years, Mr. Monahan was described as a person of splendid humor and kind wisdom. He was the son of Irish born James and Mary (Killeen) Monahan, of Pittsburgh,



Penn. where he was born and educated. He attended Saint Vincent's College and joined the pioneering team of early computer industry innovators, Digital Equipment Corporation. He was a Korean War veteran, serving as a firefighter and on the field as an USAF football halfback. When Mr. Monahan retired from professional endeavors and volunteer organizations such as Pleasanton Rotary, he enjoyed time spent with the SIR's Golfing Club, at the VFW early morning gatherings, and afternoon services at Saint Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church.

He gracefully maneuvered the final stages of his disease, forever maintaining his sense of optimism and gratitude. He will be remembered fondly by friends and devoted family members whose lives have been brightened by the light of his smile.

Mr. Monahan is survived by wife of 47 years, Carol Monahan presently of Valencia; sons Michael Monahan of Sunol and Joseph Monahan of San Ramon; daughter Lisa Aust and husband Jacob of Valencia; siblings Mary Fallon of San Diego, Kathleen Martin and James Monahan of Pittsburgh, Penn.; grandchildren Molly, Lilly, Zane and Olivia.

A memorial service was held Aug. 11 at St. Augustine Catholic Church. The family requests that memorials be made to the Santa Clarita Adult Day Health Center, 22903 Soledad Canyon Road, Santa Clarita CA 91350.

### Mitzi Ann Rickenbach

Mitzi Ann Rickenbach died Aug. 16 at the age of 43 after losing her fight against bone cancer.

Born in Livermore Nov. 2, 1963, Mrs. Rickenbach graduated from Amador High School and most recently worked for Harris Salinas Rebar in Livermore.

Mrs. Rickenbach loved the outdoors. She and her cousin Dawn went on many adventures including hiking and river rafting. She also loved gardening.

She is survived by son Patrick Rickenbach of Livermore; mother Jacklyn Rickenbach of Pleasanton; brother Dominick Rickenbach of Livermore; sister Sandra Furey of Arizona; many nieces and nephews; and one great niece, Aria Furey of Arizona.

She was preceded in death by twin sister Tami in 1964, father Dominick in 1995 and son Trevor in 2004.

Visitation was held Aug. 23 at Callaghan Mortuary in Livermore. A memorial mass was held Aug. 24 at St. Augustine Catholic Church.

### Jessie Minden

Jessie Minden died Aug. 24 in Walnut Creek at the age of 87.

Born Feb. 17, 1920 in Iowa, Mrs. Minden was a Pleasanton resident who loved teaching Sunday school, painting and spending many hours in her garden.

Mrs. Minden is survived by daughter Bev Jotten; grandchildren Tanya Gabler and Lars Jotten; great-grandchildren Larissa, Kristen, Stephen and Shelby.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband Virgil Minden.

Arrangements made by Graham Hitch Mortuary.

### Beatrice "Bea" Jeanette Engebretson

Beatrice "Bea" Engebretson, a 15-year resident of Ridge View Commons, died Aug. 22 at the age of 83.

Born in Eau Claire, Wis., Mrs. Engebretson lived her life with a gift of finding only the goodness in every person she met. She wed her childhood sweetheart Vern Engebretson in 1940. They had two children when he was called to serve in World War II. Adventurous and without hesitation or her husband's knowledge, she placed their belongings in storage and traveled cross country with two small children to "surprise" him at boot camp in California. Shortly after their arrival he was shipped to Germany and she and the children had to make their way back to Wisconsin. When the war ended, he returned home where they had



a third child and then relocated to California to raise their family.

Throughout her life, Mrs. Engebretson enjoyed bowling, square dancing, playing cards, traveling, ocean waves crashing, celebrations with family and friends, and watching the flag blowing in the breeze at Ridgeview Commons.

Mrs. Engebretson is survived by her Aunt Viola Johnson, who was more like a sister to her; brother and sister-in-law Kenneth and Kate Engebretson; son Richard and wife Valerie Engebretson, daughter Pamela and husband Dan Ramirez, son-in-law Jim Leatherman, granddaughters Brenda and husband Erik Martin, Rebecca and husband Nathan Marker; grandsons Jeff Leatherman,

Christopher Hudnall, Greg and wife Laiena Leatherman, DJ Leatherman, Matt Engebretson, Nathan Ramirez; six great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; and her "extended family" in the residents at Ridge View Commons.

A devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, great-great grandmother and true friend to many, she was preceded in death by her husband Vern and their daughter Sandra Leatherman.

A luncheon in her memory was held Aug. 30 at Ridge View Commons. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Hope Hospice, 6500 Dublin Blvd. Ste. 100, Dublin, CA 94568 in memory of Bea Engebretson.

## Births

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

### July 5

Karen & Shawn Braga, a girl

### July 18

Stephanie Nickerson & Matthew Vick, a boy

### July 23

Michelle & Erik Peters, a boy

### July 24

Saria & Parvez Fatteh, a girl  
Sara LeBron & Johnathon Ward, a girl

Diane & Thomas Hamilton, a boy

### August 2

Kari & Timmothy Harris, twin boys

### August 4

Yuri Lee & Yi-Seob Byeon, a boy

### August 7

Xiaoging Chen & Kaijun Zhan, a boy

## Anniversary

### Chance encounter leads to generous gift

*Pleasanton couple celebrating 50th anniversary treated to tickets from airline CEO*

by Janet Pelletier

When Ken Kelley was celebrating his 50th wedding anniversary with his wife Pam during a family party a few weeks ago at Wente Vineyards, he never expected it would land him two round-trip tickets to any island locale of his choice.

It was a chance meeting and a random act of kindness that led to the unexpected gift.

While the husband and wife pair was mingling with family and friends, a man named David Banmiller happened to also be at Wente, celebrating his sister's birthday. Banmiller, the president and

CEO of Aloha Airlines, overheard the Kelleys' story of being married for a half century and wanted to do something nice for the couple, so he offered them the airline tickets, Kelley said.

"At the end of October, we're going to go to Maui for two weeks," the father of three said.

Kelley said he couldn't believe Banmiller offered such a nice gift to people he'd never even met before.

It turns out that Banmiller is the twin brother of Brian Banmiller, a longtime Bay Area broadcast journalist.

The Kelleys met 50 years ago



in Alaska. Ken, who was from Iowa, and Pam, who was from Massachusetts, fell in love instantly and married after just three weeks. July 14, 1957 was the date.

"It just felt right," Ken said. "We were young kids and infatuated."

Ken, 71, was stationed in Anchorage in the U.S. Air Force and Pam, 68, was in Alaska for her brother's wedding when they first locked eyes. Through the years, the couple has lived in New Mexico for a time and settled in Pleasanton in 1974. Their three children include son Steven, and daughters Kimberly and Robin. ■

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*Diana Korpi*



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Your monthly housing cost is the second figure to consider, and that cost is very much determined by current interest rates. Today's real estate market is very price-driven. Homes that are in the best condition and have the most attractive price tags are the ones that sell.

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lenders are giving many buyers the opportunity to buy a more expensive house or condo than they thought they could afford--and to buy it sooner. There are many creative ways to get into a home with a relatively small amount of money. Ask your Realtor to help you look at today's numbers--you may be pleasantly surprised.

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# Sports

## Sports Briefs

### U14 Ballistic place third in Napa

Ballistic United U14s placed third at last weekend's tournament in Napa, but coaches said it could have so easily been more. Ballistic held a 1-0 advantage over the eventual first-place winners Benicia Arsenal until the last three minutes of regulation time in their group match before Benicia forced an equalizer and went through to the final on the tie-breaker of fewest goals conceded. Both teams had finished tied on 23 points from their group matches.

In their third place playoff, Ballistic dispatched FS Fusion from Vacaville 5-1. Earlier on Saturday Ballistic defeated Napa United 5-2 and Placer United 4-0 to put themselves in a great position to make the final in the first place. Over the weekend Ballistic scored 15 goals led by Dane Schaffar who tallied four. Their defense anchored by the Kuo twins gave up only four goals and their midfield engine featuring Chris Franzella, Erik Knaggs and Brandon Cohen simply dominated play for long stretches.

The team now prepares to head south for the Huntington Beach tournament with their confidence at an all time high.

### U14 Rage shutout GCU Strikers at Soccer City Warm Up

The Pleasanton Rage Blue team (U14 D3) came away from this weekend's Soccer City Warm Up with two decisive wins and a tie. Although the team did not advance to the final rounds of play, they outscored their opponents 6-1 and never lost a game.

In Saturday's action, the Rage met up with East Diablo from Brentwood. Rage got on the board quickly when Kelly Parsons found the back of the net off a nice cross from Dani Ramirez. Before the half, Brittany Jones put one in for a 2-0 Rage lead. Arielle Siegel would make it 3-0 when she sent a rocket in from outside the 18. Although Rage let Diablo score late in the game, they dominated play.

In Saturday's second game, the Rage offense was ready to score early and often. Ramirez started the scoring with a shot from the left. Brittany Jones and Siegel netted their second goals of the tournament and then the defense held strong to preserve the 3-0 victory.

Sunday morning the Rage faced the Pacific Heights Celtics. Play was very even and although the Celtic team had scored 10 goals the day before, the Rage held them scoreless and the game ended in a 0-0 tie. Siegel had a great shot in the waning seconds of the game but the Celtic keeper made a nice save to keep the

game scoreless.

Top offensive players were Siegel, Jones, Parsons, Ramirez and Karoline van der Zee. Top defensive players were goalkeeper Jessica McKeenan, Erin O'Loughlin, Hannah Bieszcak and Taylor Dorsey.

### Penalty kick ends game for Rage U15 D3

The Rage U15 D3 team lost the championship game by one penalty kick point in the final minute of play in last weekend's Soccer City Warm Up tournament. Ending with second place overall, the team outscored their weekend opponents by 6-1.

Goals were scored by Mo Weber (assist by Chelsea Lowenstein), Chelsea Lowenstein (assist by Kristen Desprez), Julie Price, Kristen Desprez, Heidi Johns and Casey Curtis (assist by Ellie Kim).

Defensive standouts for the weekend were Nikki Gotelli and Emma Caswell. Two midfielders who stepped up the games both in offense and defense were Noelle Malindzak and Sara Quero. Goalkeepers Alex Villanueva and Heidi Johns held their opponents scoreless all weekend, save for that last PK close-in. Players Kendall Ready, Stephanie Boggs, Maggie Blasing, and Vicki Binder also had standout moments during tournament play.

### Learn to play lacrosse

Boys and girls in first through eighth grade are invited to learn to play lacrosse at Pleasanton Lacrosse Club's New Player Festival. No equipment is necessary. A fee of \$39 includes a lacrosse stick, a ball and two hours of instruction by experienced Pleasanton Club coaches and players. The event will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Sept. 23 at Thomas Hart Middle School. Sign-in starts at 1 p.m. Register at [www.pleasantonlacrosse.com](http://www.pleasantonlacrosse.com). If you have any questions contact Byron Hay at 998-5550 or [byron.hay@comcast.net](mailto:byron.hay@comcast.net).

### Cyclepath hosts demo day

Cycling enthusiasts can get a preview of the trends in cycling at a free half-day cycling fair and demo day from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 15 at the Pleasanton Ridge. More than 100 riders are expected to converge to test ride the newest road and mountain bikes from top names in cycling, visit with representatives from local bike clubs and check out the latest cycling gear on the market.

Participants are encouraged to bring a helmet and come dressed to ride as they'll be able to test ride bikes for 15 minutes at a time. For more information call 485-3218 or visit [www.cyclepath.com](http://www.cyclepath.com).

## Downtown Yoga

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*Kate Coughlin - Director - Downtown Yoga*

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# Calendar

## Weekend Preview

### Bay Area author reads at Towne Center Books



Author Fan Wu (left) will speak 11 a.m. Sept. 13 at Towne Center Books about her latest novel "February Flowers," a story that draws on her own experience growing up on a state-run farm in Southern China where her parents were exiled during the Cultural Revolution. Wu is a Stanford alumni and ex-Yahoo! employee currently living in San Jose. The event is free and no reservation is required. Towne Center Books is located at 555 Main Street. Visit [www.townecenterbooks.com](http://www.townecenterbooks.com) for more information.

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.

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.

**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](http://www.pca.org/dia).

**September Meeting of LAVGC** The monthly meetings of the Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will resume at 7 p.m. Sept. 4 at Alisal School in the multipurpose room, 1454 Santa Rita Road. The speaker will be Kristen Yanker Hansen Her topic will be Gardening with Water Wise Plants. Call Sally, 417-8809.

**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](http://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](http://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.tvmtc.com](http://www.tvmtc.com).

## Class Reunions

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

## Classes

**Free Computer Training Classes** Take advantage of free computer training classes at 10:15 a.m. Sept. 8 at the Livermore Public Library, 1188 S Livermore Ave. Get acquainted with the mouse and keyboard and obtain basic internet skills at the introduction to the Internet class. Call 373-5505.

## Clubs

**Assistance League of Amador Valley Coffee/Orientation Night** At 7 p.m. Sept. 17, the Assistance League of Amador Valley will host a coffee/orientation. This will introduce both new and prospective members to the non-profit volunteer organization and service projects the club is involved with throughout the year. Call 461-6401 or visit [amadorvalley.assistanceleague.org](http://amadorvalley.assistanceleague.org).

**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,

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## Pleasanton Real Estate News



by  
Gerarda  
Stocking

### THE PLACE OF THE SELLER IN A SHOWING

A real estate professional has called and made an appointment to show your home to potential buyers. You scurry around the house, neatening, putting clothes in the hamper, picking up newspapers, turning on every light in the house, setting the mood with some quiet music.

And then you disappear. Have a cup of tea at a neighbor's house, run down to the market for a can of soup, stop and get a cappuccino somewhere.

It is tempting to stick around, to listen in on what the real estate professional is saying and how his or her clients are reacting, and to offer additional information about the qualities of your house. But don't.

Why? Your presence inhibits the questions and reactions of potential buyers. Suddenly, a very important, detailed question takes on an intrusive, personal quality. Buyers generally just want to get out of the house, where they can speak freely about what they've seen and ask questions of their real estate professional. (It's also true that you may find yourself offended by some of the things potential buyers say.)

Ideally, a potential buyer will move into your home in his or her imagination while touring it. But not if the home's actual owner is there. Let the real estate professional do his/her job. Leave the driving to them. For assistance call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at [www.gerardastocking.com](http://www.gerardastocking.com).

*Gerarda Stocking is the Owner/Broker of Stocking Realty.*

## Auditions

**HONK! at StarStruck Theatre** HONK!, the musical tale of the ugly duckling at StarStruck Theatre at 42307 Osgood Road, Unit L in Fremont, will hold auditions from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 14-16. Visit [www.starstrucktheatre.org](http://www.starstrucktheatre.org) for age appropriate audition times. Please prepare a 1-2 minute Broadway show tune. Bring sheet music in the correct key, an accompanist will be provided. Cassette tapes and CDs are acceptable. Call (510) 659-1319.

**Soli Deo Gloria** Soli Deo Gloria announces auditions for its 32nd season which will include the annual Christmas Concert, a spring performance of the Faure Requiem and a U.S. premiere by Allan Bevan, and a May tribute to St. Cecilia with works by Handel, Britten and Bach. Auditions for will be on Sept. 8 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1323 Central Ave., Alameda at the following times: 10 a.m. altos, 11 a.m. basses, 1 p.m. tenors and 1:30 p.m. sopranos. Call 888-SDG-SONG.

**Valley Concert Chorale** Valley Concert Chorale to hold auditions, open rehearsal night Sept. 10, 17 and 24, by appointment only at First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L streets,

Livermore. Open rehearsal night at 7 p.m. Sept. 17. Call 443-6815 or visit [www.valleyconcertchorale.org](http://www.valleyconcertchorale.org).

## 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

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## Concerts

**A Celebration of the Piano** The Las Positas College Music Department presents a Master Class featuring Berkeley concert pianist Roy Bogas Sept. 8. The event is open to all and begins at 10:30 a.m. in Room 801 of the Las Positas campus theater. The lecture/recital begins at 2 p.m. at the same location and both events are free to the public. The event is made possible through a grant from the Milanese Fund of the Las Positas College Foundation.

**Michael Fennelly Classical Piano Concert** Virtuoso pianist Michael Fennelly flies from New York for a Piano Concert to support PCAC's Young Artists Renee Smith Music Award at 8 p.m. Sept. 8 at the First Presbyterian Church, 4th at L streets, Livermore. Renee praised Michael's talent when he won the '82 and '84 Livermore-Amador Symphony Annual Competition for Young Musicians. Tickets are \$18/\$20. Call 846-6382 or email kangarakaroo@yahoo.com.

## Events

**142nd Annual Scottish Highland Games** The Caledonian Club Of San Francisco presents the 142nd Annual Scottish Highland Games at the Alameda County Fairgrounds Sept. 1 & 2. Visit [www.caledonian.org](http://www.caledonian.org) for information.

**1st Wednesday Street Party** Bid farewell to summer at the season's final First Wednesday Street Party from 6 to 9 p.m. Sept. 5 on Main Street. Tommy and the 4 Speeds play classic 50s and 60s rock 'n' roll music in the beer and wine garden at the Round Table Pizza parking lot. The Wells Fargo Stagecoach will also be on-hand at the corner of St. John and Main streets. Visit [www.pleasantondowntown.net](http://www.pleasantondowntown.net).

**8th Annual To Life! A Jewish Cultural Street Festival** To Life! offers a fun-filled day for people of all ages with live entertainment, a children's area, Judaica and fine art, music, dancing, and food. The event is held 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 9 at California Ave. and El Camino, Palo Alto. Call (650) 852-3506 or visit [www.paloalto-jcc.org](http://www.paloalto-jcc.org).

**Border Security Speaker at Dinner Meeting** Steve Giraud of the Minuteman Civil Defense Corps will speak at the Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated meeting at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 13 at La Vite Ristorante, 3037G Hopyard Road. New members and visitors welcome. The cost is \$30 for non-members; \$26 for members. Call 200-1833. (925) 426-1995.

**Community Laughs Family Night** From 5 to 8 p.m. Sept. 8 CrossWinds Church, 6444 Sierra Court, Dublin, will host Community Laughs Family Night. Dinner is served from 5 to 6 p.m. Comedian Stephen B. will entertain the adults, and kids can enjoy a magician and an inflatable slide. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$7 for kids 3-12, and kids under 3 are free. Call 560-3800 or visit [www.crosswindschurch.org](http://www.crosswindschurch.org).

**East Bay Business Symposium and Expo** The San Ramon Chamber of Commerce is hosting the East Bay Business Symposium and Expo with keynote speakers from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 6 at the San Ramon Marriott, 2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon. For event and ticket information, visit [www.sanramon.org/node/631](http://www.sanramon.org/node/631) or call 242-0600.

**Mountain View Art & Wine Festival** Mountain View hosts its 36th annual Art & Wine Festival Sept. 8-9. More than 200,000 art lovers are expected to gather at this event featuring 650 artists and craftmakers. Admission is free. visit [www.miramarevents.com](http://www.miramarevents.com).

## Exhibits

**Pieces In Time: 90 Years of Quilts** "Pieces In Time: 90 years of Quilts," at the Museum on Main, 603 Main St.,

runs through Sept. 30. The display of 24 quilts made from 1885 to 1975 includes historic and patterned quilts owned by local residents. Museum hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tues. through Sat. and 1 to 4 p.m. Sun. Tickets are \$2 per person. Call 462-2766 or visit [www.museumonmain.org](http://www.museumonmain.org).

**The Essential Landscape** An exhibit, "The Essential Landscape: A Tribute to Nature's Bounty and Beauty" will be presented at the grand opening of Deer Ridge Vineyards, 1828 Wetmore Road, Livermore. The exhibit runs Aug. 30 to Oct. 28 with a wine and cheese reception from 4 to 6 p.m. Sept. 29. The exhibit features two prominent California oil painters, Stephen Sanfilippo and Tom Taneyhill. Call curator Shelley Barry, 683-4804.

## Fundraisers

**"Laugh Till We Find A Cure"** The Pleasanton Hotel is hosting "Laugh Till We Find A Cure," a fundraiser at 8 p.m. Aug. 31 to benefit the American Cancer Society and the Pleasanton Relay for Life. Included in the activities are stand-up comedy, raffles, silent auctions and more. Hosted by John DeKoven, the event features Jeff Applebaum with headliner "Chicago" Steve Barkley. Tickets are \$20. Call 264-4413 or visit [www.laughalotproductions.com](http://www.laughalotproductions.com).

**Cook for a Cause** In September, GourMade Cookery, 7060 Koll Center Pkwy. Ste. 320, will be donating proceeds of its sales to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Five percent of sales of every Cook for A Cause menu item sold will be donated to the charity. To register for a session or place an order visit [www.gourmadecookery.com](http://www.gourmadecookery.com) or call 846-4774.

**Pancake Breakfast** The Foothill High School Band annual Pancake Breakfast will be held from 7 to 11 a.m. Sept. 3 at Donlon Elementary School, 4150 Dorman Road. Tickets are \$6 for ages 10 and older, or seniors and ages 9 and younger are \$5.

**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. Call 249-9276 or visit [www.yourknittingplace.com](http://www.yourknittingplace.com).

## Health

**"Foot Freedom!"** World School, 699 Peters Ave., will offer a free seminar for the general public at 4:30 p.m. Sept. 13. The school presents "Foot Freedom: A Free 90-Minute Foot Health Clinic." Attendees will learn daily self-care and specialized foot self-massage techniques. Call 461-2533.

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

**PAD, Stroke and Bone Screening** Residents living in and around Pleasanton can be screened to reduce their risk of having a stroke, heart attack or bone fracture. Life Line screening appointments begin at 9 a.m. Sept. 11 at Faith Chapel Assembly of God, 6656 Alisal St. All four screenings take less than an hour to complete and cost \$129. call (800) 697-9721 or visit [www.lifelinesscreening.com](http://www.lifelinesscreening.com).

**End-of-Life Community Training** Hope Hospice hosts the Hospice Community Training Course, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Mondays from Sept. 10 to Oct. 29. This 8-week, evening course is for those who want to learn about end-of-life care. It is designed for future hospice volunteers and CEUs are available for health professionals. The cost is \$75 general; \$120 with CEUs. Call 829-8770 or visit [www.hopehospice.com](http://www.hopehospice.com).

## Holiday

**Rosh Hashanah** Tri-Valley Cultural Jews holds a Secular Humanistic Jewish New Year celebration of music and readings, followed by the

traditional apples and honey, honeycake and challah at 7 p.m. Sept. 12 at Bothwell Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. The cost is \$10 for non-members 13 and over. Members and under 13 free. Welcoming to non-traditional families. Call 485-1049 or visit [Tri-ValleyCulturalJews.org](http://Tri-ValleyCulturalJews.org).

## 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](http://www.catamilacademy.org). Classes are held Sunday between 10-11.30 a.m. at Harvest Park Middle School. Visit [www.catamilacademy.org](http://www.catamilacademy.org).

**James & the Giant Peach** This 10-week drama program for kids in third through sixth grade meets 5:30 to 8 p.m. Thursdays at Crosswinds Church, 6444 Sierra Ct., Dublin. Visit [www.TriValleyYPA.org](http://www.TriValleyYPA.org) to register. Tuition is \$225 tuition; receive a \$25 discount for referral.

**Jewish Culture School** Introduction to Jewish Culture School, a twice-monthly Secular Humanistic Sunday school focusing on history, culture, music, art, dance and cooking will be held at 10:30 a.m. Sept. 9 at Bothwell Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. Intermarried and non-traditional families welcomed. A program of Tri-Valley Cultural Jews. Call 485-1049 or visit [Tri-ValleyCulturalJews.org](http://Tri-ValleyCulturalJews.org).

**Music & Movement At The Library** From 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Sept. 8 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., jump into fall as Andrea Gaspari presents a high energy morning of singing, dancing and playing rhythmic games and instruments for children 18 months-5 years. Free tickets given out at the children's desk 30 min. before showtime. Call 931-3400 ext. 8.

## Lectures/ Workshops

**Beating the Blues with Bingo** Sadness or a loss of interest may be signs of depression but, depression has a broad range of other symptoms. Theresa Cleaver of ValleyCare Health Systems' Legends program will share signs, symptoms, and tips to combat depression through a game of Bingo from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Sept. 11 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Join us for discussion and prizes! The cost is \$1.50 for residents and \$2 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

**Class & Book Signing with Kennette Reed** Kennette Reed will attend a class and book signing at 6 p.m. Sept. 11 at Village High School, 4645 Bernal Ave. The author's work encourages people to find work that excites, utilizes gifts and makes readers want to jump out of bed, anxious to get to work. The cost is \$29 for a class fee and \$20 for materials. Call 426-4280 or visit [www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/EducationalServices/AdultEducation](http://www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/EducationalServices/AdultEducation).

**East Bay Business Symposium and Expo** Learn how to get your foot in the door and do business with the big corporations from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 6 at the San Ramon Marriott, 2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon. Hosted by the San Ramon Chamber of Commerce. The cost is \$125 for Chamber Members before Aug. 15; \$145 after. Non-member registration starts at \$175. Call 242-0600 or visit [www.sanramon.org](http://www.sanramon.org).

**End-of-Life Community Training** Hope Hospice hosts the Hospice Community Training Course, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Mondays from Sept. 10 to Oct. 29. This 8-week, evening course is for those who want to learn about end-of-life care. It is designed for future hospice volunteers and CEUs are available for health professionals. The cost is \$75 general; \$120 with CEUs. Call 829-8770 or visit [www.hopehospice.com](http://www.hopehospice.com).

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Fundraising Raffle Prizes

**7 Day Alaska Cruise courtesy of Celebrity Cruises**  
Additional prizes: trip to San Antonio Texas; overnight trips; golf packages; mountain cabin weekend; plus many more.

Our special thanks to Jackson Rancheria, Spin-A-Yarn Restaurant, California State Railroad Museum, Sunol Valley Golf Club, Retzlaff Vineyards, Boulder Creek Golf & Country Club

Raffle tickets: \$5 each or 5 for \$20  
You do not have to be present to win  
Purchase raffle tickets at Clover Creek, 670 Main Street, Pleasanton and Studio 7 Fine Arts, 77 W. Angela Street, Pleasanton

[amadorvalley.assistanceleague.org](http://amadorvalley.assistanceleague.org)

**Passport to Adventure** The Pleasanton Senior Center's "Passport to Adventure" series continues as guest speaker Dolores Bengston presents: "West Africa--Visiting the Remote Tribes." The event, at 10 a.m. Sept. 31 at 5353 Sunol Blvd., includes a look at the Gurunsi, Dogon and Bozo tribes and the "Sea Salt" caravans. Call 931-5365.

**Princeton Review Getting In Seminar** The Princeton Review presents a free 75-90 minute interactive workshop on getting into the best colleges from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sept. 15 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. It will cover choosing, and applying, testing strategies, and Q&A. Reservations are helpful, but not required. Call 846-8826.

## 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: The Tom Rose Band Aug. 31, and Public Eye Sept. 7. For more information visit [www.downtownpleasanton.net](http://www.downtownpleasanton.net)

**Solcraft** Solcraft brings its explosive live show to Livermore-with styles as diverse as hard rock, punk, blues, jazz and even rap at 9 p.m. Aug. 31. Joining them will be The Dystrict and Space Monkey Gangstas at Pine St. Bar and Grill, 875 Rincon Ave., Livermore. Ages 21 and over.

## 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.

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

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

**La Dolce Vita** La Dolce Vita returns to Gene's Fine Foods, 2803 Hopyard Road, with wine personality Cristina Rinaldi from Siena Imports. Come and sample Tuscan wines from 2 to 5 p.m. Sept. 1. A \$1 tasting fee applies.

**Open House at St. Clare's** From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 15, St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, hosts an open house. Our Valley Trails neighbors and the entire Pleasanton community is invited to come see the newly renovated sanctuary and enjoy light refreshments on the patio. Call 462-4802.

**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 program to follow, just help where you need it. Internet, Office applications,

picture editing, etc. Call 931-5365 to set up an appointment. The cost is \$1.50 for residents and \$2 for non-residents.

**Friday Night Dessert Dance** This event, starting at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 7 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., includes dessert and ballroom dancing. Live music performed by JB Smooth Sounds. Singles welcomed. Tickets are \$8 for residents or \$9 for non-residents at the door. Register in advance and save \$1. Call Lisa, 931-5365.

**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. The cost is \$1.50 or \$2.00.

**Special Yoga Workshops** Learn basic yoga poses to encourage physical, emotional and mental well being from 4 to 5 p.m. Sept. 12, 19 and 26 at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. No previous yoga experience necessary. Bring a mat and wear comfortable clothes that breathe and stretch. The cost of three classes is \$25 for Dublin residents, \$27 for non-residents or \$13 for individual workshops. Call 556-4511 or visit [www.ci.dublin.ca.us](http://www.ci.dublin.ca.us).

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

## Spiritual

**Evensong and Organ Recital** Evensong with St. Clare's Chamber Choir will perform at 5:15 p.m. Sept. 9 at 3350 Hopyard Road. It will be followed by an Organ Recital at 6 p.m., featuring works of 20th Century blind French organist and composer Jean Langlais. Call 462-4802.

**Peace Meditation** A one-hour silent meditation on peace will take place on the second Saturday of the month at Downtown Yoga, 220B Division St.

No talking--just sitting. No political affiliation or religious denomination. Free to all. Call 819-9983.

**Service to Rededicate the Sanctuary** A service of confirmation and rededication of the newly renovated sanctuary at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, led by The Right Rev. Marc Handy Andrus, eighth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of California, will be held at 10 a.m. Sept. 16. Refreshments to follow. Call 462-4802.

**Tri-Valley Unity Church** Tri-Valley Unity Church meets at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Sunday service and children's school at 10 a.m. Ongoing classes and groups. All are welcome. Rev. Mary Anne Harris, minister. Call 829-2733 or visit [www.trivalleyunity.com](http://www.trivalleyunity.com).

**Women's Precept Bible Study** Women's Precept Bible Study, an in-depth, inductive study meets Wednesday mornings at 9:15 starting Sept. 12 at Valley Bible Church, 7106 Johnson Drive. This study of I and II Samuel is a life-changing look at the life of David, a man after God's own heart. Child care available. For child care reservations or questions contact Marily Ludt, 485-0417.

## Sports

**Cycling Fair and Demo Day** Preview what's hot in cycling for 2008 at this half-day cycling event from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 15 presented by Cyclepath at the Pleasanton Ridge. Test ride more than 100 road and mountain bikes, visit with representatives from local cycling clubs and learn about trends in road and mountain riding from cycling experts. Also gear giveaways and a raffle. Visit [www.cyclepath.com](http://www.cyclepath.com).

**Metromint Giro di San Francisco Bike Race** The 33rd Metromint Giro di San Francisco Sept. 3 is the oldest bike race in San Francisco and is the last race in the 2007 NCNCA Premier series. The loop course is 7.5 miles. This year's race has an expanded expo area. Visit [www.metromintgiro.com](http://www.metromintgiro.com).

**Pleasanton Ridge Ride** Meet the Cyclepath group at the Foothill Road staging area. These no-drop rides last approximately two hours. Riders should be in good fitness, have a well-adjusted, safe mountain bike and general knowledge of bike handling

skills. Call 485-3218.

## Support Groups

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

**ClutterLess Self Help Group** Is clutter stressing you out? We are a Self Help support group for those with difficulty disposing of stuff. Cluttering is a psychological issue, not just an organizing issue. The group meets Mondays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Pleasanton Presbyterian Church Rm 7, 4300 Mirador Drive.

Call 846-5060 or visit [www.clutterless.org](http://www.clutterless.org). The group is free and \$2 to \$5 donation appreciated.

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

**Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group** The Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group meets at 10 a.m. the fourth Tuesdays of the month at Heritage Estates Retirement Community, 900 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. All are welcome. Call 443-4098 or 447-6158 or email [ralaye@comcast.net](mailto:ralaye@comcast.net).

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

**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.

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.

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

**Tri-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.

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

**Volunteer at the Oakland Zoo** Zoo Ambassadors are on the front line with our visitors, teaching them about our animals, helping at special events, and generally enhancing our guests' experience. If you love people and animals, this is for you. Applications are due Sept. 26 and training begins Oct. 10. There is a \$50 training fee. Call (510) 632-9525 ext. 141.

## TV30

**Ask the Doctor** Joint Pain and Treatment is the topic for Ask the Doctor, TV30's live call-in show at 7 p.m. Sept. 5. Viewers can phone in questions for guests Orthopedic Surgeon, David Jupina, M.D. and Rheumatologist Melissa McNamara, M.D., by calling Channel 30, 462-3030.

**Let's Talk Sports** TV30's George "Dr. B" Baljevich Baseball Special with the Giants and A's will air weekdays at 11:30 a.m., 2 and 6 p.m.; Friday and Saturday at 4 p.m. Features Bruce Bochy and more.

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## 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-

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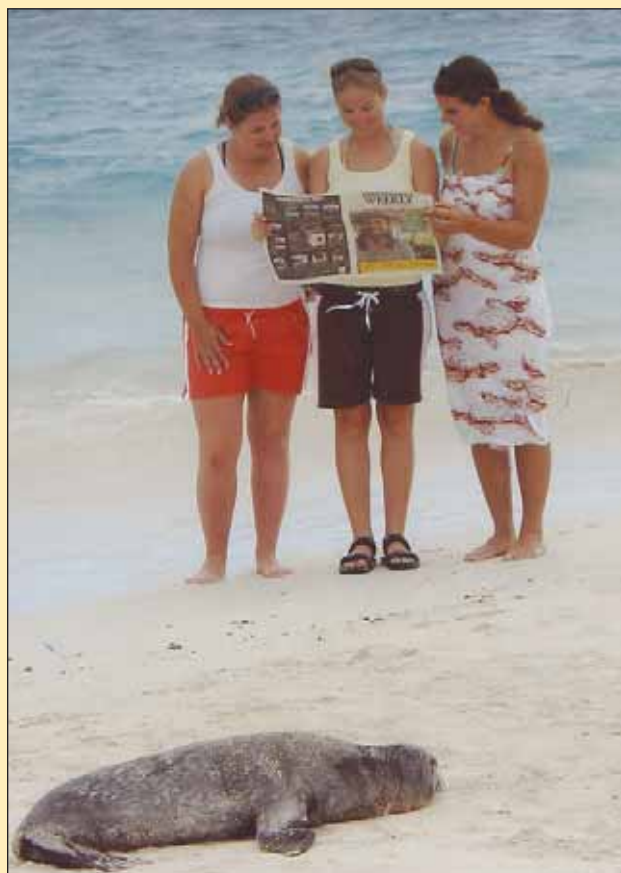
### Sharing sisters

Sophie and Olivia Lair are such good sisters that they were able to share the Weekly while visiting in Bayeux, France, located in the Normandy region.



### Sisterly love

Sisters Elizabeth Albano, Cheryl Wirth and Gilda Ungemach reunited on an Alaskan cruise. Here, they first catch up with the Weekly after taking a train to Skagway, Alaska.



### Swift reading

Lily, Rose and Holly Swift read the Weekly on the Galapagos Islands, and apparently find the Weekly's articles more interesting than the island's wildlife. Good thing Darwin didn't have a copy!



### Weekly brings the sun to Ireland

Claudia Quadros reads the Weekly in Belfast after attending her niece's wedding, which was held in McColgan, Northern Ireland. Ireland's normally rainy weather gave way to beautiful, bright weather for the wedding, and many guests thought sunshine was brought in directly from Pleasanton, Quadros reports.

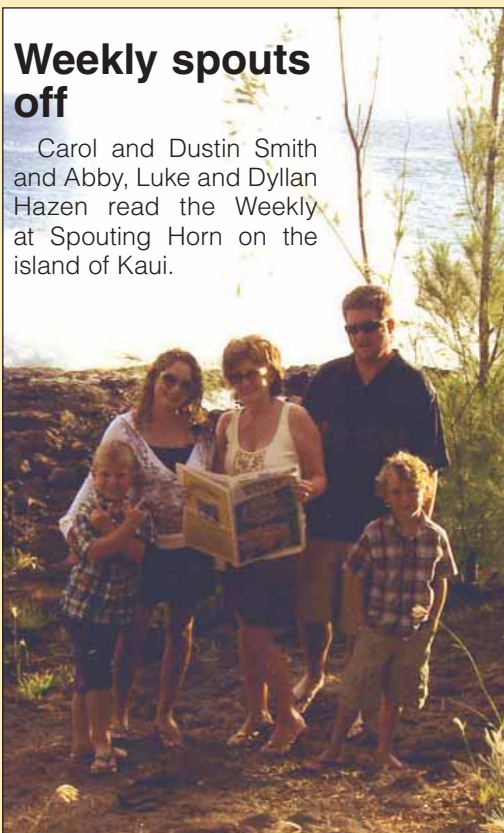
### What an anniversary gift!

Jeff and Alice Jones enjoy catching up with the Weekly in Negril, Jamaica after celebrating their 10th anniversary by renewing their wedding vows. The couple got married in Jamaica and every five years return to Jamaica to renew their vows, wearing their full wedding attire.



### Weekly spouts off

Carol and Dustin Smith and Abby, Luke and Dyllan Hazen read the Weekly at Spouting Horn on the island of Kauai.



### Book worms

Being such reading enthusiasts, Joan Kinworthy and Betty Kirvan not only read the Weekly during their trip to Florence, Italy, they read it at the Florence Library.



### Holiday with Founding Father

Randy, Kim, Laurel and Jaclyn Vandiver read the Weekly at Mt. Vernon, the home of George Washington, during a Thanksgiving vacation to Washington, D.C.

# Save Pleasanton's Hills

**NO Oak Grove  
Mega-Mansions**

The Oak Grove development proposes to build 12,500 sq ft, 3-story, 50 ft tall mega-mansions on Pleasanton's southern hills. Is this what we want for our rolling hills? We all want open space and trails, but at the expense of hundreds and hundreds of oak trees and the loss of the views of our hills? Let's get a better project for Pleasanton!

Email the City Council and urge them to sustain the Planning Commission's denial of this project as proposed.

Email the council at: [citycouncil@ci.pleasanton.ca.us](mailto:citycouncil@ci.pleasanton.ca.us)

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