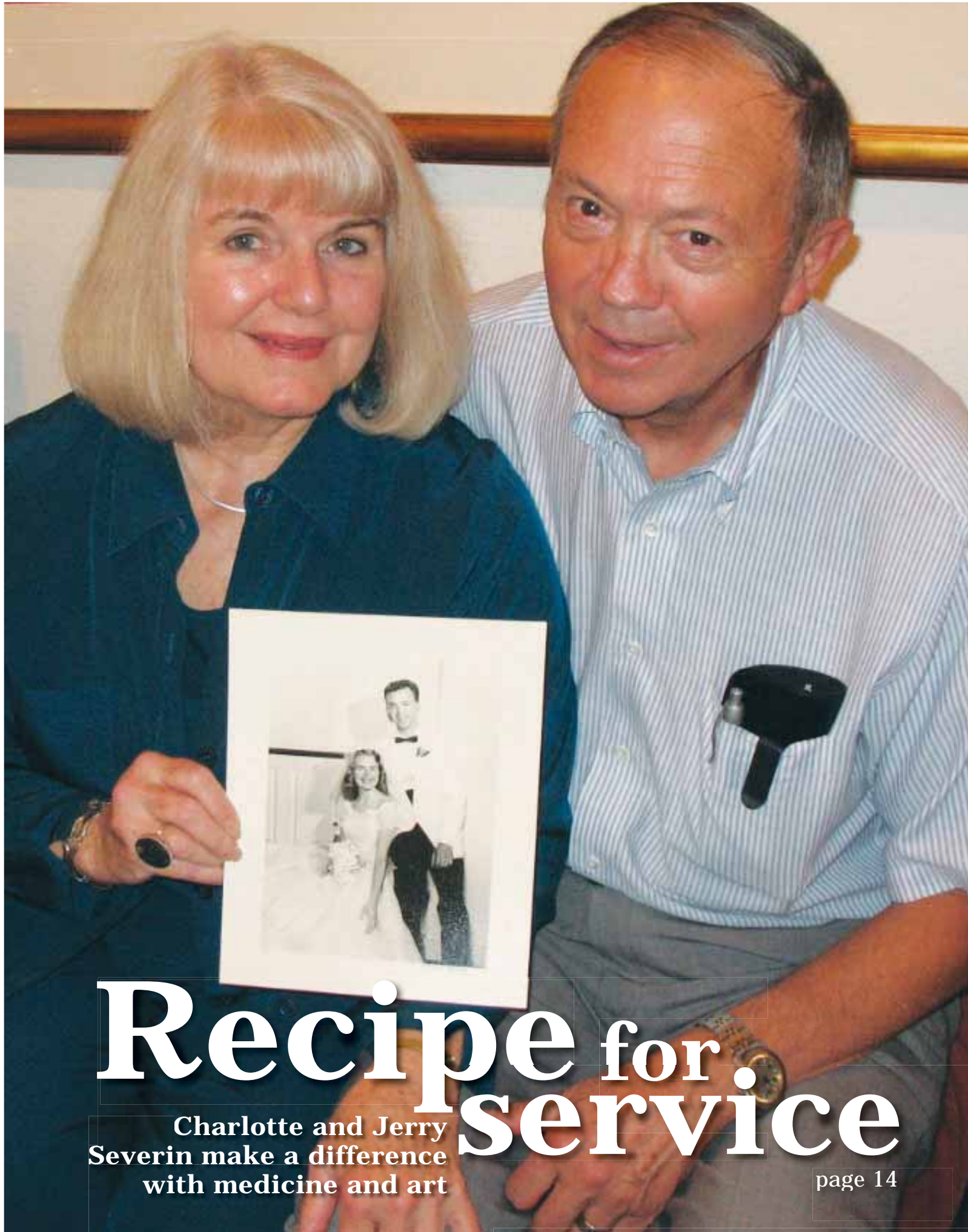


# PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Vol. VIII, Number 33 • September 14, 2007

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It's all about Pleasanton



## Recipe for service

Charlotte and Jerry Severin make a difference with medicine and art

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### INSIDE this week

#### Info's inside!

Find a trusty guide to everything Pleasanton in this issue



#### Enlarging enrollment

Number of students increases throughout public schools

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Work on grandiose Casa Real, Ruby Hill Winery moves forward

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#### Romanian holiday

Orphan choir performs, connects with the Tri-Valley

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#### A Realtor's reality

Safety is the top priority when showing homes

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# Is Construction In Your Future?

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# Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

## Space travel comes to Valley View

Students in one fifth-grade class at Valley View Elementary had a virtual front row seat at last month's launch of the space shuttle Endeavour thanks to their teacher Rob Palassou, who is passionate about space exploration and wants to encourage young Americans to consider it as a future career.

Palassou, now in his 11th year as a teacher, actually came close to becoming an astronaut. Well not too close. He was among 197 teachers in NEAT—NASA's Network of Educator Astronaut Teachers—to compete for a chance to fly aboard a future space shuttle. NASA picked three, not him, but he was chosen to go to the August launch of Endeavour, spending a week at the Kennedy Space Center as a special guest of NASA. He met Barbara Morgan, a fellow teacher and one of the seven Endeavour astronauts, now 55, who was the backup to Christa McAuliffe, the first teacher selected to fly on the Challenger in 1986. The Challenger exploded shortly after launch, killing all on board and delaying both the shuttle program for several years and civilian participation even longer. Morgan waited 22 years before NASA gave her a spot on Endeavour and Palassou was in a front row seat on the bleachers overlooking the launch site to see her off.

Although he won't be part of a future shuttle launch, NASA likes Palassou's enthusiasm for its space program and his commitment to inspire fifth-graders to focus on science, math and engineering as they move into middle and high school and then to college. In his travels and meetings with scientists, he sees students in India, China and possibly even Russia moving faster and unwaveringly in rocket and space travel careers. Although the U.S. may not have the quantity of the enthusiastic 20- and 30-year-olds in the coming decades to keep the U.S. space program and exploration in front as we had in the 1960s, '70s and '80s, Palassou and fellow teachers on NASA's teacher brigade are determined to provide

students with the quality needed to keep this country on top.

A Cal State East Bay graduate with a degree in biological sciences, Palassou worked for the Livermore Lab for seven years, losing interest after the federal government cut funds for an environmental science project he planned to conduct in the High Sierra. Always fascinated by race cars, he quit the lab and joined a friend who was in the sport. For the next six years, Palassou raced on tracks up and down the West Coast and even Daytona and Sebring until the cost of moving into the big time races became more than he could handle. Without Madison Avenue and corporate sponsors, Sears Point would be his best shot at racing as a career. That's when he turned to teaching, first in San Leandro and moving to Pleasanton 11 years ago.

Not married, Palassou calls his 33 fifth-graders this year—and the several hundred he taught earlier—"my family." He likes fifth grade because it's the last year kids have just one teacher who gets to teach all the courses. He's using every chance he has to interest them in science and space travel. Last week, he put a video of the Endeavour launch on "YouTube" (search YouTube for "rpsport") for his students to watch. He's also working with his class on building lunar growth chambers, where they can create different environments in which to grow seeds that Astronaut Morgan took into space. Next summer, he's hoping to join two other Pleasanton teachers on a NASA "weightless" flight over the Gulf of Mexico, affectionately known as the Vomit Comet. The teachers will conduct experiments their students will help design, bringing back results that can be examined and tweaked. On Sept. 29, Palassou will talk about his NASA-related work and space science opportunities along with Astronaut Sally Ride at the Sally Ride Science Festival at Moffett Field in Mountain View for fifth- to eighth-grade girls. Check [www.sallyridefestivals.com](http://www.sallyridefestivals.com) for more information and be sure to tell Palassou you're from Pleasanton. ■

### About the Cover

With a special recipe, Pleasanton residents Jerry and Charlotte Severin have made a difference, for the community, the Tri-Valley region and in other parts of the world. Heading toward their 50th wedding anniversary, this couple can look back and see many positive results of their careers and their volunteer efforts. Cover design by Lili Cao. Vol. VIII, Number 33

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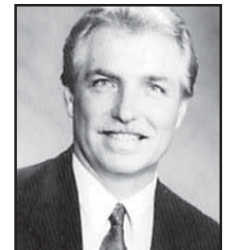
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# Streetwise

**Q:** How much should you spend on your child's birthday?

Asked Downtown



**Marcella Cox**  
Homemaker

We celebrate life and our children's birthdays as a family. I have friends who literally spend thousands on birthday parties. The whole room is full of presents. I remember when my mom baked me a cake and there were three presents on the table; we were ecstatic about what we received. Times have changed and it is a shame.

**Steve Hans**

Senior Applications Specialist

This is an issue of social responsibility. If you are excessive at birthdays it sets an expectation for the future, always expecting more. Parents have a responsibility to teach their children the world does not owe them things. It sets up a reward system that reinforces children should be overly rewarded for typical things.



**Mary Leyba**  
Social Services

Parents are the first teachers. To have spent excessively on birthdays teaches kids that everything is going to be over the top. It also reinforces that that best things in life are things. A birthday is to celebrate that individual it doesn't take a lot of money to show love and appreciation for someone's life.

**Mary Hermansader**

Finance/Compliance

These days people spend much more money on birthday parties than in my day. I think big celebrations should be limited to the milestone birthdays such as baby's first birthday, 13th birthday, Sweet 16, etc. Then the day feels really special and more traditional.



**Sergio Baca**  
Engineer

I think it depends on your financial situation. I love to take my daughter to an indoor play facility. The main thing is that the day is memorable and that her school mates have a great time.

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Compiled by Cybele Ryan

# Newsfront

## News Digest

### Town Hall meeting continues the conversation

A 2005 California Healthy Kids Survey showed that of juniors in Pleasanton high school, 32 percent have used marijuana, 23 percent have engaged in binge drinking in the past 30 days and 24 percent have been in a car with a driver under the influence. Following up a well-attended town hall meeting this spring, a panel of school district staff and Pleasanton police will answer questions and concerns from parents from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Sept. 20 at the Amador Valley High School library, 1155 Santa Rita Road. To RSVP or for more information, call 426-4280.

### Join the party at Picnic 4 Pets

To help celebrate Valley Humane Society's 20th Anniversary, the group is hosting Picnic 4 Pets from noon to 5 p.m. Sept. 23 at 3670 Nevada St. Festivities include barbecue, refreshments, raffles, face painting and more for the whole family. Dogs are more than welcome and can compete in contests like best trick, best beggar, cutest and doggie idol. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. Call VHS for tickets, 426-8656.

### Are there spirits in Kottinger Barn?

Milfleur owner Terri Carlson will talk about "The Spirits of Kottinger Barn" at 7 p.m. Sept. 20 at the Lynnwood Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave. Sponsored by the Museum On Main Street, the lecture is a part of the Ed Kinney Lecture Series. Reservations are requested. Call 462-2766.

### Learn more about backpack health

The Pleasanton PTA Wellness Committee is partnering with the American Occupational Therapy Association to conduct a backpack health awareness day from 3 to 5:30 pm. Sept. 19 at the Pleasanton library, 400 Old Bernal Ave.

### Corrections

The API score chart in "High scores abound for public schools" (News, Sept. 7) incorrectly showed Foothill High School as scoring 585. That was the score Village High School received, while Foothill's was 884.

## Construction ramping up on Ruby Hill Winery, Casa Real

*Developer and owner Michael Callahan bringing back storied winery name*

by Janet Pelletier

**D**ramatic limestone columns and arches. Sweeping chandeliers. Rosettes. Mahogany doors. A 12-foot fireplace. Outdoor fountains.

All and more architectural designs are planned for Casa Real at Ruby Hill Winery, a new structure going up at the corner of

Vineyard and Isabel avenues on Pleasanton's southeast border with Livermore.

Construction on Casa Real, a 20,000-square-foot center that will play host to corporate events and weddings, got underway in May. Joining it will be an adjacent 5,000-square-foot tasting room. Crews recently erected giant concrete

walls that shape the two structures.

Michael Callahan, who is the developer for the project and owner of the parcel, said the tasting room will be serving reds and whites using the Ruby Hill Winery name. Roots to Ruby Hill Winery can be traced back to the late 1880s, when John Crellin immigrated to the U.S. from Italy. The building that housed the original

Ruby Hill Winery was opened in 1887 at the current site of Mitchell Katz Winery, but burned to the ground in 1989. The remnants of the structure were demolished in 2002 and it was later replaced by Mitchell Katz, which Callahan also owns.

"We're bringing back the Ruby

(continued on page 9)



Janet Pelletier

Students at Amador Valley High School stuff envelopes regarding dress code violations Wednesday afternoon. The district learned that enrollment figures were up, including for AVHS, which has a total of 2,587 students. Ideal enrollment for the high school is 2,500.

## District surprised by increased enrollment

*Superintendent says high elementary school numbers dictate a push for additional school*

by Emily Atwood

An additional 91 students surprised the Pleasanton Unified School District last Friday as enrollment numbers showed an overage in a demographer's earlier projections. While the district has a history of increased high school enrollment, much of the unanticipated growth came from the elementary and middle school levels.

"Budget-wise, we're pleased to see all these students," Superintendent John Casey said at Tuesday's school board meeting. "We're pleased to see growth, but

it shocked us a little bit."

School Board President Jim Ott was encouraged by the numbers.

"I see this as a good sign that people want to raise their children in Pleasanton in large part because of our schools."

Trustee Kris Weaver agreed that higher numbers are better than low ones, with state funding given on a per-student basis.

Kevin Johnson, senior director of pupil services and former Foothill High principal, said the actual total enrollment for the district is 14,801

(continued on page 9)

## Planning Director steps aside for new role

*Veteran planner battling leukemia named special projects manager as search starts for new director*

by Jeb Bing

**J**erry Iserson, 55, the city's planning director since November 2004, has been given a new position as special projects manager to reduce the late night meetings and stress he has faced continuously since returning to work in May from a medical leave for aggressive treatment of hairy cell leukemia.

City Manager Nelson Fialho said Iserson had planned to retire in December, but agreed to take the new post to help the city, developers and others prepare some of the many projects now coming before the Planning Commission and City Council. Although the workload will continue, Fialho said the new assignment will allow Iserson to maintain more normal hours, an essential part of the regular treatments he undergoes to battle the disease.

"We're delighted that Jerry has accepted this new position and will remain with the city for a while longer," Fialho said. "Jerry has been a tremendous asset to the organization with his knowledge of the development of the city."

"With Jerry assuming a new role as special projects manager, the city will continue to benefit from his experience in planning and shaping our community while also enabling a smooth transition as we embark on the recruitment and selection of new planning and community development director," he added.

In his new job, Iserson will provide input and direction regarding the General Plan update as well as participate in various short- and long-range planning efforts.



Jerry Iserson

"I'm excited about this opportunity to focus my attention on a number of important projects as I transition toward retirement in the near term," said Iserson.

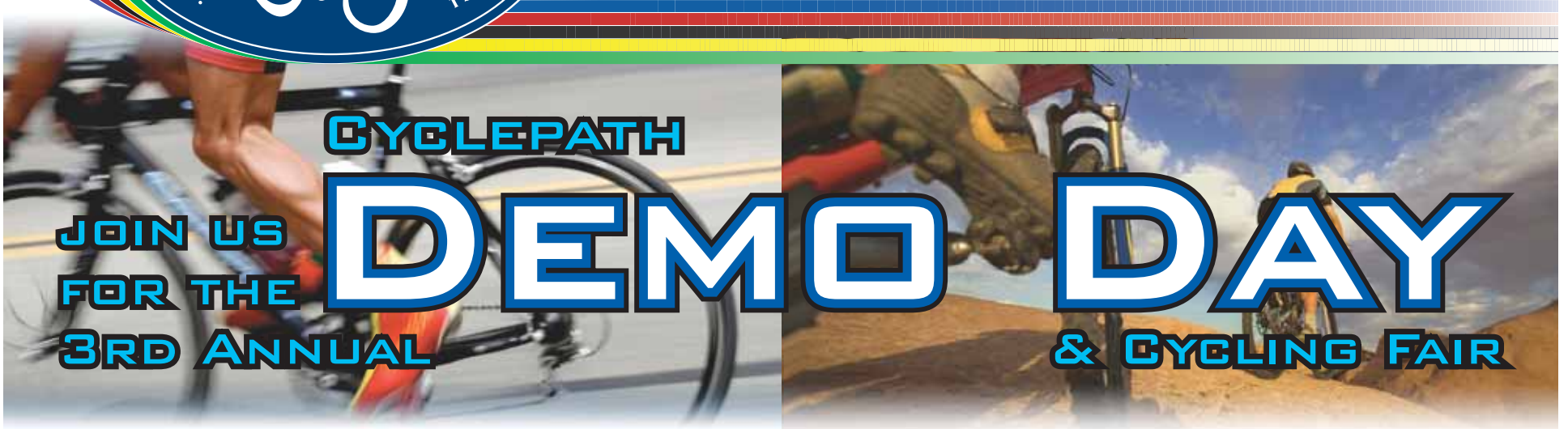
Earlier this year, Iserson took a nine-week medical leave for treatment of his particular type of leukemia, a rare form of the disease that attacks about 600 Americans each year, mostly men and mostly in Iserson's age group. Although doctors aren't sure what causes this type of leukemia, where abnormal white blood cells become "hairy" and diminish the body's ability to ward off infections, they also consider it to be one of the most treatable, with Iserson receiving promising results that can lead to remission for years.

Still, the treatments are exhausting and have been especially difficult in recent weeks as Iserson served as the focal point for several

(continued on page 12)



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Janet Pelleiter

Under a new deal with Cemex Corp., Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area will receive a supply of water to keep the lake level constant.

## Cemex supplying water to Shadow Cliffs

*Cement plant has stock from holding ponds that will help replenish lake*

Under a new deal with a local cement plant, the lake at Shadow Cliffs will be periodically replenished with water.

Because Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area lies on old gravel quarry land, the water in the lake there evaporates and percolates at a much faster rate, requiring additional supplies of water to maintain a constant level. Recently, Cemex Corp. a cement plant that neighbors the recreation area, made an agreement with the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), which owns and operates Shadow Cliffs. Under the agreement, the lake will receive fresh water from Cemex water holding ponds. The

water is stored there after being used in the aggregate process. The water undergoes a several stage settling process, is regularly tested by Cemex to comply with state standards for discharge to streams and is good quality, according to a statement released by the park district. The water will also be monitored on a routine basis by the district and EBRPD will upgrade the existing out-flow pipe at the lake and pay for the cost of electricity during the water transfer.

According to the park district, the arrangement saves taxpayers "tens of thousands of dollars annu-

(continued on page 11)

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## Open Heart Kitchen free meal service expands to Dublin

*The organization is in great need of volunteers for Monday offerings*

by Emily Atwood

Growling stomachs in Dublin are now being satisfied. Starting Sept. 10, Open Heart Kitchen has expanded its free hot meal services to residents in need Mondays from 4 to 6 p.m. at Crosswinds Church in Dublin.

Meals include a protein and starch, vegetable, green salad, fruit salad, bread, milk, coffee tea, juice and dessert. They will be made by a group of volunteers and staff using the Ridgeview Commons kitchen and transported to Dublin in the organization's hot/cold service truck.

According to the Tri-Valley Human Services Needs Assessment

(May 2003), there aren't enough free meals for the homeless or working poor. In 2000, the U.S. Census Bureau reported 719 households in Dublin living in poverty and 2,299 households in Dublin earning less than \$50,000 per year.

The nonprofit agency is committed to addressing hunger in the local community and also provides nutritious, prepared food to families and individuals in need in Pleasanton and Livermore. The organization expects to serve about 150 meals each week at the new service location. OHK anticipates the program's annual cost at \$27,000.

While expansion typically would infer an overflow of support, Executive Director Carol Beddome said it's not the case.

"The program is expanding without grant dollars making a commitment," she said. "We need people to help us cook and serve the food on Mondays during the day. And we need donations to help the expansion."

In her two years at OHK, Beddome has seen large growth in

the number of meals being served. The group now serves about 200 meals per week. The organization also delivers boxed lunches for school-aged kids to eat over the weekend. In Dublin, Beddome said there isn't much for the growing population of adults and older children in need.

"A lot of people think those in poverty deserve it," she said. "Stories vary, but a lot of times it's bad luck."

OHK still needs a lot of help and there are several ways to do it. While they don't really use small cans of food, they do accept leftovers from catered events, bulk donations and large bags of rice and pasta.

"It's important that the community makes an investment in families with needs," she said. "They tend to be kinder people."

As for the future, Beddome said OHK is exploring the cost of having their own kitchen and how to better serve children and seniors in the community.

For those interested in helping OHK, call Beddome at 580-1616. ■



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### REAL ESTATE ADVISOR

*Diana Korpi*



### DO "BABY BOOMERS" DRIVE REAL ESTATE BOOMS?

Some economists link the buying habits of "baby boomers" to the demand for homes in this country. Since most of the "boomers" have already bought their home, they conclude, the demand for housing is declining, along with the rapid appreciation in real estate during the last decade.

This argument presumes that the population will stabilize or decline as these potential buyers age and their children grow up. What is left out of such a picture is that the emerging real estate market is made up of people who are immigrating to this country. When these newcomers have achieved a stable income, they look for the best living situation they can find, often preferring buying to renting.

Real estate continues to be an attractive investment opportunity. If you are sitting out the current market because you are afraid that the appreciation won't continue, you may want to re-think your decision. Today's market is providing opportunities for homeowners and smart investment from all over the globe.

If you or someone you know is thinking about buying or selling, contact Diana at ReMax Accord. Diana is committed to professional, attentive service to her clients—always willing to go the extra mile. When you deserve the very best, call 925-830-4764.  
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## Ruby Hill

(continued from page 5)

Hill Winery name, the labels and everything," Callahan said.

For a time, Wente Vineyards was using the label and Callahan was given permission to use it for Mitchell Katz, but now the name will be used solely for the new Ruby Hill Winery.

"When we open up, we'll be the only winery using the Ruby Hill trademark," Callahan said. "We think that the name will have tremendous recognition in many areas. For example—the Ruby Hill Golf Course—the LPGA uses that for some of their practice rounds and it's on national TV and also for collegiate. There's a lot of name recognition and we're hoping to bring back some history from the Valley. It's one of the oldest wineries in the Valley."

Mitchell Katz and the Palm Event Center, which neighbors the construction site on Vineyard Avenue, will be a separate entity from Casa Real and the Ruby Hill Winery, according to Callahan. They will only share the event management services provided by



Large blue pipes lie at the future front entrance of the Ruby Hill Winery, located at the corner of Vineyard and Isabel avenues on Pleasanton's southeastern border with Livermore.

Janet Pelletier

Beet's Catering.

The construction and word of mouth has already led to dates being booked for Casa Real as early as May 4, 2008.

"We hope to be open a little bit sooner than that but we wanted to play it safe," Callahan said.

The tasting room is expected to open sooner than Casa Real, targeted for the first of the new year.

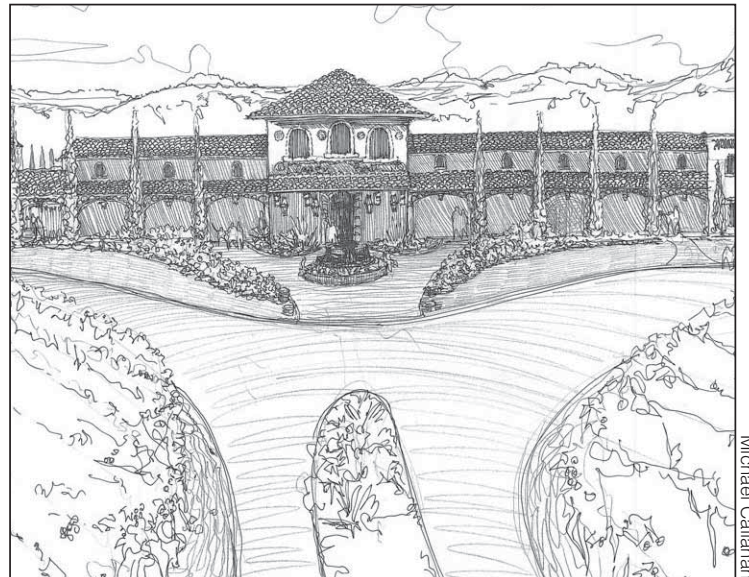
Both structures will have a

Mediterranean feel. Callahan described Casa Real as "a California boutique winery with a flavor of Italy."

"We hope that it all turns out beautiful and successful," he said.

The addition of Ruby Hill winery means Pleasanton now has two wineries in city limits.

For more information on Casa Real, visit [www.casarealevents.com](http://www.casarealevents.com) or call 931-0200. ■



This artist's sketch shows what the future Ruby Hill Winery tasting room and Casa Real center will look like when completed next year.

Michael Callahan

## School Board

(continued from page 5)

instead of the demographer's projection of 14,710. The budget was prepared with the early estimates, and Johnson added that in regards to budget, it's always better to be up on projections than down.

"One of the facts we were making [at the school board meeting] is how the growth in the past has been almost exclusively at the high school level," he said.

Yet the board wasn't happy to see the high school numbers that high either. The ideal enrollment for both schools, according to Casey, is 2,500. For the second year in a row, Amador Valley passed that mark (now at 2,587) and Foothill remains even with last year at 2,343.

While the numbers are up, Johnson and Casey said students aren't being shortchanged in the classroom. As more students are added, so are teachers, so the student-to-teacher ratio remains the same despite the growth.

In addition to ratios being the same, Johnson said school enroll-

ment by level has maintained a consistent balance.

"What we tried to do this year was to keep elementary schools at 700 students," he added. "We have the elementary schools all in the 600s, except Hearst which has 715."

The school board looked specifically at the kindergarten numbers, as it can be a good growth indicator. From the 2004-05 school year to the current school year, there was a growth of 95 students. If the growth pattern continues, Johnson said the district can expect 60 more the next year, plus next year's first grade class, currently at 997, would be over 1,000.

While Casey doesn't believe the increase is a cause for concern, he said he does think there is an added push towards having the proposed Neal Elementary School in the Vineyard Corridor. Elementary numbers above 6,000 was what the district said indicates the need for another elementary school, and the current elementary numbers are at 6,099.

Casey expects the total enrollment numbers to fluctuate between now and mid-October when the

final enrollment is counted. Current projections have an enrollment drop off after 2009, but Casey said the numbers might still be higher than what they originally thought. Demographers are expected to come back to the board in December to discuss the enrollment and what it means for the future. ■

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# Residents all shook up over special delivery

*Replica Elvis Harleys go to owners here*

by Janet Pelletier

You won't find the local recipients of two Elvis-themed Harleys singing "Return to Sender" after some prized possessions arrived on their doorsteps last week.

A large delivery truck bearing replica 1957 FLH model Harley-Davidsons (the type of motorcycle the King used to ride) dropped off two of 30 limited edition bikes to an undisclosed location in Pleasanton.

Sharon, who asked that along with her husband Tony, his co-worker Ron and friend Cindy that their last names not be revealed for fear that the bikes would be stolen, has the No. 5 bike made and Ron has No. 19.

The motorcycles were released in honor of the 30th anniversary of Elvis Presley's death and were presented Aug. 15 at Graceland, a grand-scale mansion once owned by Presley in Memphis, Tenn. Sharon and Tony were there.

Sharon said she first found out about the collector's items through the American Diabetes Association. The bikes were purchased for \$57,000 a piece and a large portion of the proceeds benefits the association. Down to the smallest detail, the bikes resemble the one Presley used to own and ride, except they run like today's models.

There's clear evidence of Sharon and Tony's affinity for all things Harley in the couple's living room—where the Elvis Harley now resides—under strict supervision

and lock and key. Everything from a Harley window valance sewn by Sharon to a Harley blanket, ceiling fan and curio case full of motorcycle figurines reveal the pair's love for arguably the most popular motorcycle manufacturer. Not to leave out the King, pictures of Elvis also add to the living room décor, making the new motorcycle at home with its surroundings. Presley's "Can't Help Falling in Love" was the pair's wedding song.

Ron has decided there's no better place to display his Harley than in his bedroom.

"It's just unbelievable," he said, as he paused for a few minutes amid the melee of the motorcycles' arrivals. On the recent Monday, neighbors periodically came by to check out the bikes which they had been briefed about a few days earlier by an excited Sharon.

"I'm really fortunate to be a part of this history," Ron said, adding that he's been an Elvis fan "since it wasn't cool."

Though he has yet to see Graceland, considered mecca for Elvis fans, he plans to next year. His longtime friend Cindy and her two daughters were also on hand for the special arrival. Cindy said she too loves the rock 'n roll icon and Harleys, but Ron's purchase meant a lot to her because her nephew was recently diagnosed with juvenile diabetes. Sharon also shares a special connection with the American Diabetes Association—she has Type II diabetes.

While many may be thinking that spending \$57,000 on a motorcycle is a little extreme, the new owners have been seeing



Janet Pelletier

From L-R: Cindy, Ron, Sharon, Tony (with their granddaughter) received a special delivery last week—two limited edition Elvis Harleys made in honor of the 30th anniversary of the King's death.

some return on their investments. Sharon said her Harley is now valued at about \$71,000, and she expects it to continue going up considering there are only 30 in the world. While the majority of the bikes have now been handed off to their rightful owners, the 30th and final bike will be auctioned off on Jan. 8—which non-coincidentally happens to be Elvis'

birthdate. Other owners of the limited edition Harleys are said to include comedian Jay Leno, NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Vegas hotel owner Steve Wynn.

As part of the purchase of the bikes, owners also receive a painting by Harley-Davidson artist David Uhl and a bronze sculpture of Presley on his Harley by Harley-Davidson sculptor Jeff Decker. ■



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# Artist hard at work on Mohr ball wall

*Two-sided mural represents school's cultural diversity*

by Janet Pelletier

If you've walked the campus of Mohr Elementary School lately, you've noticed a bright, colorful mural taking shape on the playground's ball wall. And if you've been there during the late afternoon and early evening, you may have seen the artist responsible for it.

The mural is being painted by local artist Cheryl Anthony and incorporates students' ideas on cultural diversity.

"Watercolor is my forte," Anthony said as she painted a soft brush stroke of some blue sky on a recent Friday afternoon.

But you wouldn't know it from her vibrant, detailed artwork. Anthony estimates she's spent at least 25 hours on the mural, beginning the project in May. She often spends a few hours each day adding new details to it.

Anthony was asked to judge a mural contest at Mohr and later asked to paint the mural herself. She said she chose to combine several students' ideas and make one all-inclusive, cohesive piece.

The original design concept was done by Christine Xu. Nikhilesh Bhaskar designed a flower image that's portrayed on the mural and Michael Iglesias had the idea for a globe and eagle that's also on the wall. The eagle is Mohr's school mascot and the globe represents the diversity at the elementary school.

Anthony, an accomplished artist, has shown her works at local exhibits. She also teaches children 8 years and older as well as adults basic drawing and design techniques at her home studio. ■



Local artist Cheryl Anthony works on a two-sided mural on the ball wall at Mohr Elementary School. The mural represents the school's diversity.

Janet Pelletier

## Cemex

(continued from page 7)

ally in potential water usage fees and construction costs for alternatives such as drawing water from other quarries."

The district siphons local groundwater from the Arroyo for the lake, but said access to it can't be guaranteed due to other needs in the area, so the district was searching for an additional source.

—Janet Pelletier

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## Second part of Mohatt memoirs published

Former local coach to sign books Sunday

by Jerri Pantages Long

Don't be surprised if you have to stand in line to get into Towne Center Books this Sunday afternoon. The bookstore at 555 Main St. is hosting a book signing by Everett "Skip" Mohatt, who retired after a three-decade career as a teacher/coach at Amador Valley High School. Starting at 2 p.m. on Sept. 16, Mohatt will be signing just-off-the-presses copies of "Beyond Ceilings," a 347-page sequel to "Ceilings."

The first book covered Mohatt's childhood in California's Mother Lode country, up until 1948, when he was stricken with the only severe case of polio documented in Tuolumne County that year. A standing-room-only crowd welcomed Mohatt back to Pleasanton (from his current home in Auburn) for that earlier book-signing (on May 5, 2006).

"I spent nine years writing and re-writing my first two books," noted Mohatt, whose second volume includes acknowledgments of the people and resources involved in his research. "I started with the ability to type with both hands. By the final years, I had been reduced to typing with one finger. Post-polio syndrome was the cause of the strength reduction. I am not seeking your sympathy, but please understand that writing is a

challenging task under the best of circumstances, and very frustrating under the worst.

"At the start, I understood the obstacles, but did not expect the harshness of literary reality. Agents and publishers look down skeptically at an old guy writing a memoir, and especially one without experience or a recognizable name. An old guy who has never taken a creative [writing] class or belonged to a book club quickly learns that his chances of breaking through the ink on the paper ceiling are quite slim. So, I write from outside the literary world," concluded 73-year-old Mohatt. "I am an outsider. I always have been."

Those who think they know the author's unique blend of being both a curmudgeon and charmer will learn more about the reasons for his sense of being an outsider for most of his life. "Ceilings" ended with 14-year-old Mohatt being taken by ambulance away from the rural home where his grandparents had raised him. "Beyond Ceilings" opens with his limited view of the ceiling over his hospital bed in San Francisco.

The first of the book's three parts deals with the years (1948-52) that Mohatt spent away from the close-knit community he called home while receiving treatment for his sudden paralysis. Between city hospitals and foster care, he faced a

culture shock on top of his illness. People of an age to remember the terror of the nation's then-mysterious polio outbreaks will get a first-hand look at what the young victims had to deal with, from iron lungs to excruciating treatments, some of which were ineffective. By the fierce determination that later characterized his professional life, Mohatt made progress from iron lung to wheelchair to so-called "Canadian crutches" strapped to his forearms. He pays tribute to the many people along the way who helped and encouraged him.

Many adults can recall the trepidation they felt upon entering high school. For Mohatt, that challenge was more than quadrupled because he was trying to fit into a teenage world without the ability to walk unaided. Part two of his new book focuses on his high school and college years. Perhaps Mohatt's 21 grandchildren will say, "Too much information!" when they read detailed accounts of his sexual exploits, including his honeymoon with their grandmother.

Skip Mohatt married college sweetheart Joyce Ingalls in 1956. Part three highlights the early years of their marriage, when they struggled financially while raising six children and finding a place where Mohatt could carry out his dream of becoming a basketball coach. His sense of being an outsider was repeatedly reinforced by school administrators in California and Oregon who openly doubted that a person no longer able to run could effectively teach physical education or coach a varsity team. As the Part three title page says, "We have common threads—Demons to conquer—Angels to treasure. Some along the way will create barriers. Some will open portals."

In 1963, one of the portals that opened was the (then) only high school in Pleasanton. Mohatt describes many fellow local educators of that era, along with student athletes he coached to championships between then and 1970. From beginning to end, this could be "Mohatt the Musical," because the author includes the hit songs that were the background sound of that era. In italics, he also includes insights to his own talents and shortcomings along the 22-year life journey portrayed.

"My second book is much more than my story. This is a story about polio, and the effect it had on post World War II America," said Mohatt in a press release. "That disease is history. The challenges faced by those disabled by polio continues. Add the effects of other diseases and the disabling effects of wars in the second half of the 20th century, and today, and the sight of physically challenged individuals has become commonplace."

Mohatt had to blaze his own trail, before "handicapped access" was a legally enforced concept, much less a socially accepted norm. ■

## Congressmen McNerney, Stark plan health care forum here Saturday

Public invited to 2 p.m. event in Pleasanton Civic Center

Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton), fresh from a series of presentations to local groups just two weeks ago in Pleasanton and other parts of his 11th Congressional District, will join Congressman Pete Stark (D-San Lorenzo) here Saturday to talk about health care.

Stark, whose 13th Congressional District includes a section of northwestern Pleasanton, will talk about the Children's Health and Medicare Protection (CHAMP) Act, which he supports. He is backing Democratic legislation to provide health care to 11 million children, improve Medicare's benefits for seniors and people with disabilities and to pro-

tect Medicare from efforts to privatize the program.

McNerney also supports a national plan to provide universal health care. He has pointed out that 45 million Americans have no medical coverage, and those that do see skyrocketing premiums every year. According to the World Health Organization, McNerney said, the U.S. ranks 37th in the quality of medical care.

The town hall forum is open to the public and is scheduled from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the Pleasanton City Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

—Jeb Bing

## Iseron

(continued from page 5)

major development applications. Last week, for instance, he fielded questions at a City Council meeting that lasted until 11:40 p.m., mostly concerning a petition to build 51 estate homes on hilltop acreage above Kottinger Ranch to be called Oak Grove. He's also been on tap to handle contentious issues such as Home Depot's application to build a second Pleasanton store at Bernal Avenue and Stanley Boulevard. As director of the planning department, Iseron is also leading the city's rewrite of its 1996 General Plan, a process that has already taken more than three years.

Iseron will continue to serve as planning director until the selection of the new director is made, but will be spared having to attend late-night council and Planning Commission meetings except in exceptional circumstances.

As for Iseron's successor, Fialho said the process of recruiting a new director of planning and community development will begin immediately.

"I am seeking someone who possesses a strong familiarity with downtowns and also recognizes the importance of community outreach and civic engagement, especially as it relates land use," Fialho said. "I am also looking for someone who is interested in residing in Pleasanton and who will embrace the opportunity to live and work in the community."

Iseron is an expert in land use planning who's become well known in his 18 years with Pleasanton. And

although the two principal planners he hired after succeeding longtime Planning Director Brian Swift 2-1/2 years ago—Janice Stern and Donna Decker—and others on his staff kept the department moving forward on planning issues during his medical leave, Iseron has clearly been the point-person for planning guidance and decisions among the developer, business and housing advocacy interests both in the community and in municipal government.

With more than 23 years of experience in urban planning and development, Iseron has been the eyes and ears of Pleasanton when it comes to long range planning and development. Not only has he been a familiar face at council meetings, but he is also well known on Main Street, which was his "beat" as the city's principal planner who was most responsible for building designs and zoning ordinance compliance.

Iseron joined the Pleasanton planning staff in 1989 as a senior planner from Union City, where he served for 3-1/2 years as an associate planner. Before that, he also held planning jobs in Fremont and worked as a planning intern for Mountain View while he completed his graduate degree in urban planning at San Jose State University.

A graduate of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in sociology and urban studies, Iseron was born in Philadelphia and spent his teenage years in New Jersey. He's quick to recall the nasty winters there, which, he says, "makes me appreciate even more the opportunity to serve Pleasanton." ■

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- California ranks 9th in growth of privately-held, majority (51% or more) women-owned firms between 1997 and 2006.
- Between 1997 and 2006 in the U.S., majority women-owned firms (51 percent or more women-owned) grew at twice the rate of all firms (42 percent vs. 24 percent).

*Source: Key Facts about Women-Owned Businesses – 2007 Update, Center for Women's Business Research, released Aug. 28, 2007.*

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# Recipe for service

story and photos by  
Jerri Pantages Long



Charlotte and Jerry Severin make a difference with medicine and art

Take a passion for medicine and combine with one for art; stir in a desire for service; add slowly to a long-term, successful marriage partnership, and simmer gently for decades. The result? A better world.

This is the “recipe” by which Jerry and Charlotte Severin have made a difference, for our community, the Tri-Valley region, and in other parts of the world. Heading toward their 50th wedding anniversary, this couple can look back and see many positive results of their careers and their volunteer efforts.

For example, one of their ongoing, joint projects is raising funds for a children’s burn center in Santiago, Chile. Jerry and Charlotte visited Coaniquem Burned Children Foundation Center as part of one of Jerry’s professional association conferences during his long career in dermatology. The center provides care and treatment for children from South and Central America who otherwise could not afford it—and there are many of them: each year, an estimated 7 million children are injured and disfigured with burns, due to cooking done over open fires, household accidents, or improper use of fireworks. Jerry and Charlotte, trained as a doctor and nurse, respectively, took an interest in the medical program of the center. Widely known as an artist, Charlotte also saw firsthand how art projects could help the young patients cope with treatments while far from their homes.

As a result of that visit, the Severins have become involved as planners for an annual local fundraiser for the clinics. Called “Fiesta of the Americas,” the event will take place from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. on Oct. 5 at the Blackhawk Museum in Danville. The surgeon who heads the clinic, Dr. Jorge Rojas Zegers, is also an accomplished classical guitarist, and he will perform during the benefit banquet. Tickets are on sale for \$75 per person, and the Severins are hopeful that individuals or groups will “sponsor” a young burn victim for a donation of \$600 to cover the cost of their treatment. For information, call 510-769-9661.

Closer to home, there are other tangible results of the Severins’ commitment to service. Charlotte was a founder and first president of Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council (PCAC) a group she describes as “including patrons of the arts as well as representatives of art groups—performing arts, painters, and so on. Basically, it’s people seeing the arts go forward.” Working with the Pleasanton Art League, PCAC successfully lobbied the city for a visual arts workshop in the parkland adjacent to the Delores Bengtson Aquatic Center on Black Avenue. Another PCAC goal was establishment of a center for performing arts, and Charlotte led the way to an unusual arrangement whereby the city took over ownership and management of Amador Theater on the Amador Valley High School campus. Renovating the theater took many volunteers and a decade, with completion celebrated in 1990. A PCAC president, Charlotte accepted the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce’s Community Development Award that year.

While Jerry was busy with his 32-year private practice in Livermore and serving as the chief of staff (1977-79) of the (then) Valley Memorial Hospital, Charlotte was involved in the local projects to celebrate the nation’s Bicentennial. Funds were raised for the Chan Henderson Memorial Bandstand in Lions Wayside Park, First and Neal Streets. Charlotte was asked by City Councilman Bill Herlihy, “If we have a bandstand, how about a band?”—and she hurried off to see if the Amador Valley Adult School would sponsor such a group. They would, and they still do.



Jerry Severin shows results of his year-long photographic study of a single poison oak plant atop the Pleasanton Ridge—something to be avoided in all seasons.

“The band said. “It allowed to play their in our lives.”

How appro Concert Band when Charlot Community S

Next to Lion housed Pleasa Livermore-Pla ties were built station into an

“We have n space,” said C Old Firehouse have internati shops. We als project for all adults who ma

A nonprofit established to Firehouse Art on the Bernal

Pleasanton ing city coun own homes o Community T Stevens began

“Darla was tape equipmen at the Century became the be Darla was the

One of the sented to Char Founding men great apprecia “Woman of th

Jerry was so Medical Scho matologist at position he en

“I just love he said of his Jerry still vo Health, where ment for low

The Severin were in medic also their first Jerry’s milita for world trav

ing Iraq, Pal Philippines, B of Europe, bri of their adven

Son Jack w as battalion su 1967, and dau Frey (1973) a grandchildren Benjamin, and

“All the thi help people,”



Charlotte Severin done at her ho

has been continuously getting better," Charlotte says people who might not otherwise get the chance instruments. As with art, music provides a balance

appropriate that the all-volunteer Amador Community Center was performing on this past Fourth of July celebration was applauded as a recipient of the Ed Kinney Service Award.

ons Wayside Park is the brick building that formerly was Pleasanton's first fire station and the headquarters of the Pleasanton Fire Department. Since new, separate facilities to house both, plans are underway to convert the old building into an arts center.

needed a smaller theater, plus a gallery and classroom for Charlotte, who is serving on the city's task force for the Pleasanton Arts Center. "We have all sorts of opportunities to have locally known artists come to speak and give workshops. We need to preserve the historic firehouse. This is a challenge, but from children who might take classes through the arts center, they attend performance in the 240-seat theater."

at Pleasanton Community Arts Foundation has been working to create an endowed fund not only for the Old Fire Station Center, but, in the future, an additional arts center on the property.

Residents who appreciate the convenience of watching city council and school board meetings on television in their homes owe a debt of gratitude to Charlotte (and others). "Television (CTV) became reality here when Darla started showing up to videotape public events."

pulling the little red wagon she used to haul videotapes, and she was taping the time capsule being buried in the "House," Charlotte said of their first encounter. "I'm behind-the-scenes political organizer [for CTV], while she is the hands-on one."

Awards on display at the Severin home were pre-emptive in 1999 with the inscription, "CTV 1976-1999: Member and chair of the Board of Directors—given with appreciation for ongoing work." Charlotte also was named "Woman of the Year" in 2003 by the Pleasanton Weekly.

erving on the Voluntary Clinical Faculty at Stanford University when he was tapped to become the geriatric director of the Livermore Veterans' Administration Hospital, a position he enjoyed for the six years prior to his retirement.

and it, hearing the amazing stories they had to share," Charlotte said of their military veteran patients. Although officially retired, Jerry volunteers one day per month at Axis Community Center where patients without health insurance can receive treatment at no fees.

ns' love story began on Valentine's Day while both were in high school. Their graduation on June 14, 1958, was followed by their wedding anniversary. Between medical school and military service, the young couple saved their earnings to travel. They embarked on an eight-month trip, exploring Pakistan, Cambodia, Vietnam, India, Thailand, the Philippines, Burma, Japan, China, Hong Kong, and the countries they are bringing back a lifetime's worth of memories and tales to tell.

was born in Germany (1962) while Jerry was serving as a surgeon. The family moved to their Pleasanton home in 1964. Their daughters Kim Severin Coberg (1964) and Julie Severin also were raised here. Now the family includes eight children: Jonathan, Michael, and Lanae Severin; Brenna, Emma Coberg; and Annika and newborn Lydia Frey. "The things that happen in life can be turned into ways to help others," Charlotte likes to say, and she has demonstrated that

belief in a most personal way. Charlotte is a survivor of breast cancer—twice. That health challenge, plus her medical training, prompted her to volunteer with the American Cancer Society to educate thousands of women in this area about the importance of regular breast self-examination in order to quickly get treatment if a lump is detected. Charlotte has spoken to local service clubs, employees of Livermore and Sandia national laboratories, and even to inmates of the nearby women's federal correctional facility. Several individuals have credited her with saving their lives.

The world travels that the Severins began soon after their marriage have continued, not only through Jerry's medical association conferences, but also due to Charlotte's art career. She specializes now in watercolors painted en plein air, or outdoors at the scene. Her adult students are sometimes seen around the community, carrying out their lessons under her guidance. In addition, many aspiring painters have accompanied Charlotte on art tours to France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Turkey, China, Tibet, and Mexico, plus Alaska and Arizona in this country.

Another way in which Charlotte has shared her passion for art is through local public schools, where she has instructed thousands of students in Japanese brush painting. So great has been the demand for her skills that Charlotte has videotaped a series of five lessons, "Art Made Easy," (now also on DVD), which she has donated to the local school district and which also are available in the public libraries of the Tri-Valley. As part of the local Make A Difference festival for eight years, Charlotte helped collect art supplies donated for use by children temporarily living in shelters nearby.

As they approach their golden wedding anniversary, it seems appropriate to ask the Severins for their recipe for a successful marriage. What advice would they have for those aspiring to live "happily ever after"?

"Take care of your wife," Jerry unhesitatingly answered. "And he does," added Charlotte, noting that her husband is the "consummate gentleman," who never fails to hold her chair for her at every meal, even breakfast, before he himself sits down.

"Work together as a team," is Charlotte's succinct advice for married couples, to which she added, "Part of that is appreciating the little things and letting your partner know. Loving each other—never losing that. Always thanking each other. Surprising each other with little things; making life fun. Oh, and having a sense of humor."

Although neither one stated it, "Thinking of others" beyond the family might be considered another essential ingredient for the long-term partnership they continue to enjoy. Both Jerry and Charlotte Severin have coped with recent health challenges. Charlotte said of their relationship, "It doesn't seem like 50 years. We're very lucky to be here, and still be able to dance, somewhat." ■

Jerry & Charlotte Severin support many worthwhile causes. They are on the planning committee to help fund a children's burn center in South America.

**WHAT:** Fiesta de las Americas

**WHEN:** Friday, Oct. 5

**WHERE:** Blackhawk Museum, Danville

**WHY:** Benefit for COANIQUEM Burned Children Foundation


**HOW:** \$75 per person ticket includes dinner, dancing, no-host bar, silent auction, charity drawing, and a classical guitar concert by the burn center's director. Call (510) 769-9661 for reservations or further details.





Charlotte is surrounded by some of the paintings she has done in her studio.




Charlotte and Jerry Severin display some of the dolls they have collected during their world travels.



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Above: The Cat in the Hat  
Cast Bronze Sculpture h. 15" x w. 7" x d. 12"  
From: The Tribute Collection I

**PLEASANTON WEEKLY**

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# Opinion

## Editorial

### Pleasanton Leadership: Creating the best for our town

Pleasanton Leadership launches its 19th annual program Thursday, a joint project of the city of Pleasanton and the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce that provides an in-depth look at our city that even top community leaders and old-timers find informative. Its purpose is to help budding future civic and business leaders and those in top positions today gain a better understanding of how local government, nonprofits, emergency response teams and other institutions work and why they're needed. Of the 315 who have graduated from Pleasanton leadership since the program started in 1989, the vast majority are today's leaders in a variety of positions, with some now retired. They include Jim Ott, chairman of UNCLE Credit Union, and one of the city's top Realtors, Tom Fox, who were in the first class. This year, 30 individuals have been chosen for a series of day-long courses each month on local government, health and human services, business and economics, public safety, the media that serves Pleasanton, education, environment and transportation and the Parks and Community Services Department and what it does. Some of the work involves meeting with and interviewing doctors and nurses at Axis Community Health to better understand the needs of the hundreds of uninsured patients they serve, talking to counselors at agencies that serve teens at risk, and the paid and volunteer managers at other nonprofits that provide food and shelter to the hungry and homeless.

Much of the course work is tough, but always interesting. During Local Government Day, City Manager Nelson Fialho doles out packets of voluminous proposals and background material on key proposals before the City Council, and then organizes the leadership group into mock councils and commissions to debate the proposals and reach a decision. This year's 30-member class will be given DVDs of a recent school board meeting to watch at home and then discuss in the school board meeting room. When this course work was introduced last year, Joyce Shapiro, Leadership Pleasanton program manager, said participants gained a new appreciation for the work school trustees undertake, often in a near-empty public hearing room and with little fanfare. Police detectives also provide the leadership class with cases they have had under review to let them decide how those cases should have been handled.

City-sponsored leadership programs are not new, although there are only a few in this area. The earliest known program began in Philadelphia and the program spread, especially in cities that were ravaged by race riots in the 1960s. Civic leadership programs were seen as a way to bring the community together by fostering mutual understanding of the issues and problems facing the community. Some communities adopted the leadership program concept due to a severe lack of leaders within the community. A dramatic example was the tragic plane crash that was carrying most of Atlanta's young leaders, which created a leadership vacuum in that city. In Pleasanton, the success of the leadership program is shown by the large number of applications each year from civic and business organizations that want their own leaders to have a better understanding of our community. Many graduates have gone on to volunteer on the nonprofits that serve our town as well as to be appointed to the numerous commissions and committees that help the City Council and City Manager Fialho create programs and make decisions that benefit the community as a whole. Ours is a city that depends on good leadership which is why we salute the 30 who have signed up for the 2007-08 program. ■

## 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.

# Talking Points

by Gina Channell-Allen



## Letters

### Learn from Dublin— Stoneridge extension isn't best idea

Dear Editor,

I love Pleasanton. My husband and I both grew up here and went to Pleasanton schools. Now we are raising our family here. We love downtown Pleasanton, all the parks, the friendly people, the many trees that line our streets, and the limited growth that Pleasanton has supported since we were young.

I recognize the importance of extending Stoneridge Drive to our neighboring cities, but I am concerned about the effect this will have on Pleasanton and am frustrated that other cities are not concerned about the effect their growth has had on their neighbors.

We used to be able to look over I-580 into Dublin and see rolling hills, now we see ultra high density housing (including many homes which are now for sale), large shopping centers, bright neon signage and increased congestion. Dublin Boulevard is already difficult to travel on, and this will only get worse once the new developments are constructed. The infrastructure cannot reasonably accommodate this growth. I do not want Pleasanton to turn into another Dublin and am frustrated that our city streets are negatively affected. For right now, I am not convinced that the Stoneridge Drive extension is best for Pleasanton.

Christina Mantha  
Pleasanton

### Pleasanton is city now, not a town

Dear Editor,

I have lived in Pleasanton Meadows for 23 years. In that time I have watched Pleasanton grow from a town to a city. I have lost the mooing of the cows in the fields and the view of the hills.

Traffic is worse. To compensate, I have a hospital, BART, can do my shopping here, have a good selection of restaurants and more parks to enjoy. In all it's a much better place to live. Part of living in a

city is voting for our city officials, participating in the city meetings to make your position known, and then accepting the results when the city officials make a decision. Part of living in a city is to understand that your neighborhood isn't supreme; that what is best for the city may not be what you want; yet it needs to occur.

Friends of Pleasanton, please drop your initiative and come back into the process. You now agree that Hendrick Automotive Group should be allowed to build on the Staples Ranch site. Senior housing seems like something that you would support so that people can stay in the community as they age. The builder assures us that the airplane noise will be fine within the development, and frankly since I live about a half a mile from the site and don't have a problem with the noise; I think he's right.

What that leaves in Staples Ranch is a park and an undeveloped parcel that is marked for future commercial use. Friends of Pleasanton, how about working to see if that undeveloped parcel can be added to the planned park space? To me that is far superior than taking a chance that Alameda County will decide to develop all of Staples Ranch as commercial property and then turn it over to either Livermore or Pleasanton. After all we know that Livermore's mayor does not want housing on the property. Just how likely is Livermore to want a park so far from their residents? Friends of Pleasanton, please drop the initiative. People of Pleasanton, please don't sign the initiative.

Dave Osterman  
Pleasanton

### Staples Ranch—What is best for Pleasanton?

Dear Editor,

Best? Certainly not any successful signature-gathering petition for what is now titled the "Pleasanton Eastern Gateway Initiative." This greenbelt gateway only leads to immense future revenue loss for Pleasanton.

Alameda County owns this land. Pleasanton may annex it, and has signed a memorandum of understanding with county to complete our agreed to improvement project, including a senior retirement and assisted living community, acreage for Hendrick Auto Group, small retail, and the 17-acre park, long planned.

If successful, the initiative would invalidate our MOU with county, allowing them to reassign the land to Dublin or Livermore for development. The proponents of Gateway scoff at this possibility, but that outcome is very real. Five million dollars in annual revenue are at stake here, an attractive incentive for either city. Pleasanton residents would see zero benefits.

Would our citizens want to see something like Dublin's Hacienda Crossings on the land? It could happen; and if we lose this 124 acres, there will be no community park, and no future dollars from this location to support our schools, or to assist youth activities, improve any park, plant one tree, and no senior community for those who might desire to live there.

In other words: a total loss for our city. The Gateway initiative is not a good idea, and if asked to sign a petition for it, please citizens, politely decline.

Gerry Brunken  
Pleasanton

## In the spotlight

*Right to privacy determined by a number of factors*

In the Aug. 31 edition of "Talking Points," the matter of privacy was discussed in regard to an advertisement urging the Pleasanton City Council to vote against a local development. The Pleasanton Weekly staff did not publish the name of the individual who placed the advertisement, although a story was written about the group and the ad.

In the case of this Oak Grove development ad, the client was a private citizen and had not given permission to make his or her identity public, so it would have been a breach of trust to print the name. However, when deciding between the public's right to know (or need to know) and the right to privacy, is the right to privacy waived if the story involves a public figure?

It's an unfortunate reality that celebrities have absolutely no privacy from the prying eyes of the press. But they normally love the spotlight and ask for the press (as long as it doesn't tarnish their image). But I digress...

The first question journalists ask when determining the boundaries of a public figure's privacy is how much protection does this person deserve? Sometimes this is influenced by whether or not the individual is involved in the news situation by choice or was thrust into the public scene through no actions of his or her own. The rules between the average citizen who is thrust into the spotlight and someone who is in the public spotlight already are distinctly different. Simply being a public figure—whether a member of a board or a million-dollar celebrity—makes privacy less of a right. After all, those individuals chose to be in the public eye.

But another more crucial deter-

mining factor is whether there is a relationship between the private information and the person's public position. The Journal of Mass Media Ethics refers to it as "linkage." If the person who placed the Oak Grove ad had been on the City Council, for example, there is enough linkage that our editorial department had the right to pursue the story and make the information public.

The recent ruling in a state Supreme Court case takes this issue of privacy and the public's need to know to a new level. On Aug. 27, the state Supreme Court ruled that salaries of government officials in California are a matter of public record to "ensure transparency in government." What this means is that the salaries of public officials from the city manager to police officers can be accessed and published. The public has a right to know how its tax dollars are being spent, and journalists have a right to know this information to uncover possible abuses. But how would it feel to have your salary information published?

While I personally believe it is necessary for the salaries of public officials to be public record, the level of responsibility for journalists just increased exponentially. Just because journalists have the right to publish this information, would it be right to do so?

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

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# Community Pulse



## WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

### City Council

Tuesday, September 18, 2007  
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Consider a Predevelopment and Cooperation Agreement between the cities of Livermore, Pleasanton, the County of Alameda, the Alameda County Surplus Property Authority and Calmat Co., dba Vulcan Materials
- Consider a Cost Sharing Agreement between the cities of Livermore, Pleasanton, and the Alameda County Surplus Property Authority concerning the Staples Ranch property
- Presentation on Regional Rail Plan and High Speed Rail

### Housing Commission

Thursday, September 20, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.  
City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Recommendation of an Affordable Housing Concept for Windstar's "Stoneridge Station" Apartment Project
- Recommendation regarding potential modifications to the City's Down Payment Assistance Program

### GENERAL INFORMATION

### Employment Opportunity

**Youth Sports Official – Basketball**  
(Part-time, Temporary) \$9.57 - \$11.63 per hour  
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The Youth and Adult Sports program seeks several part-time Recreation Aides to work as youth sports officials at the Harvest Park, Hart, and Pleasanton Middle School Gymnasiums

The Position: Under direction of the Recreation Supervisors, Youth Sports Officials will officiate selected basketball games in the Pleasanton Youth Basketball (PYB) program. Basketball players are in grades 1-12.

For more information or to apply for this position, please contact Ian Anderson, Recreation Supervisor at (925) 931-3447 or [iananderson@ci.pleasanton.ca.us](mailto:iananderson@ci.pleasanton.ca.us)

### Notice of Commission/Committee Vacancies (Extended Recruitment)

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

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

### Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Call for Applicants

The City of Pleasanton has vacant seats on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). The BPAC is an informal working group, which provides advice and recommendations to City staff and consultants on all matters relating to bicycle and pedestrian facilities planning. The BPAC will oversee the development of the City of Pleasanton Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan.

The four vacant seats are designated for Pleasanton residents (including one representative of the youth community) who are interested in providing input on bicycle and pedestrian issues, and who are able to attend evening meetings.

BPAC meetings will be held at the City of Pleasanton offices located at 200 Old Bernal Avenue, in downtown Pleasanton. The appointment term is for two years. Additional information may be received by contacting Janis Stephen in the Traffic Engineering Division (925) 931-5671 or at [jstephen@ci.pleasanton.ca.us](mailto:jstephen@ci.pleasanton.ca.us)

Applications for commissions and committees are available at the City Clerk's office, 123 Main Street, Pleasanton or on the City's Website at [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us). For additional information, call the office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027.

Applications must be received no later than **5:00 P.M. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2007**. Postmarks are not accepted.

**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)

## Police Bulletin

### Pleasanton broker aids in real estate scam arrest

Police arrested Roger Dungan Buack of Hayward Sept. 5 in a real estate scam akin to junk email loan requests.

Buack, 63, allegedly posed as a potential homebuyer to Pleasanton real estate broker Dave Cunningham. According to police, the two had been working together for about two months before Buack made a proposition to Cunningham. Buack reportedly said he was owed a large sum of money from the United Kingdom, but needed \$10,000 to pay the company and get clearance from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. He then allegedly told Cunningham that the loan would be returned two-fold along with additional

real estate transactions.

Sensing something fishy, Cunningham went to the police and began working with a detective. He then went along with the transaction and met with Buack at his office Sept. 5 while police remained out of sight.

The transaction was completed and Buack gave Cunningham a fake promissory note and a lien on a property which he apparently didn't own. Upon exiting the office, police arrested Buack for burglary, three counts of making false financial statements and one count of using a fictitious business address.

Police said during the investigation, they discovered other real estate agents and other potential investors fell victim to similar scams by Buack. They said the investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information concerning victims of similar scams involving Buack is encouraged to call Det. Mark Reimer at 931-5100.

## Police Report

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

### Aug. 31

- Theft:
  - 6:30 a.m. in the 5000 block of Hopyard Road; stolen vehicle
  - 11:08 a.m. in the 4500 block of Oracle Lane; grand theft
  - 12:33 p.m. in the 2800 block of Vizzolini Court; identity theft
  - 1:06 p.m. in the 3700 block of Brockton Drive; grand theft
  - 1:44 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; forgery
- Robbery:
  - 10:45 a.m. in the 6600 block of Koll Center Parkway

### Sept. 1

- Theft:
  - 12:24 p.m. in the 5800 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; identity theft
- Vehicular burglary:
  - 6:24 p.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive
- Drug/alcohol violations:
  - 12:58 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road; public drunkenness
  - 1:33 a.m. at the intersection of Second Street and Arendt Way; public intoxication
  - 1:37 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
  - 2:45 a.m. in the 1200 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
  - 7:43 p.m. in the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue; public drunkenness
  - 8:35 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; public intoxication
  - 8:39 p.m. at the intersection of First Street and Bernal Avenue; public drunkenness
- Other:
  - 1:01 a.m. in the 900 block of Laguna Creek Lane; assault with a deadly weapon
  - 6:39 p.m. in the 3100 block of Valley Avenue; mental health danger

### Sept. 2

- Theft:
  - 8:58 a.m. in the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue; grand theft

- Vandalism:
  - 5:48 a.m. in the 4500 block of Willow Road; worth over \$400
- Drug/alcohol violations:
  - 1:07 a.m. in the 3400 block of Andrews Drive; public drunkenness
  - 10:08 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita and Morganfield roads; public drunkenness
  - 10:16 p.m. at the intersection of Main and Division streets; marijuana possession; driving with marijuana
  - 10:29 p.m. at the intersection of Mohr Avenue and Tanager drive; public drunkenness
- Other:
  - 1:07 a.m. in the 3400 block of Andrews Drive; assault, displaying firearm
  - 1:27 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; battery
  - 6:16 p.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; mental health danger

### Sept. 3

- Theft:
  - 5:11 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; grand theft
  - 2:48 p.m. in the 4900 block of Valley Avenue; petty theft
- Vandalism:
  - 5:04 p.m. in the 3900 block of Churchill Drive
- Possession of a controlled substance:
  - 3:23 p.m. in the 3000 block of Tonopah Circle
- Other:
  - 1:06 p.m. in the 4000 block of Pimlico Drive; recovered vehicle
  - 2:36 p.m. in the 4100 block of Valley Avenue; mental health danger
  - 4:22 p.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Owens Drive; sexual battery

### Sept. 4

- Theft:
  - 11:58 a.m. in the 4300 block of Black Avenue; grand theft
  - 4:31 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
  - 4:32 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; petty theft
  - 4:59 p.m. in the 3700 block of Barin Court; forged checks
  - 8:32 p.m. in the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue
  - 9:47 p.m. in the 4400 block of Willow Road; petty theft
- Vandalism:

- 12:10 p.m. in the 3300 block of Smoketree Commons Drive; worth less than \$400
- Truant:
  - 2:22 p.m. in the 1900 block of Santa Rita Road

### Sept. 5

- Theft:
  - 11:29 a.m. in the 5300 block of Case Avenue; grand theft
  - 4:16 p.m. in the 1600 block of Calle Santiago; petty theft
  - 7:34 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- Vandalism:
  - 2:25 p.m. in the 300 block of Ray Street; worth less than \$400
  - 10:27 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; worth over \$400
- Burglary:
  - 8:52 a.m. in the 200 block of Kottinger Drive
- Drug/alcohol violations:
  - 5:42 p.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Valley Avenue; public drunkenness
  - 9:59 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; opium pipe possession
  - 10:27 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; needle/syringe possession, controlled substance possession, non-narcotic controlled substance possession, public drunkenness
- Other:
  - 3:42 p.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; mental health danger
  - 10:27 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; threats

### Sept. 6

- Theft:
  - 5:32 p.m. in the 4300 block of Hacienda Drive
- Public drunkenness:
  - 12:36 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road
  - 12:39 a.m. at the intersection of Valley and Bernal avenues
  - 1:45 a.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road
  - 3:41 a.m. in the 100 block of Peters Avenue
- Other:
  - 2:03 a.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; mental health danger
  - 9:38 p.m. in the 7600 block of Desertwood Lane; annoying phone calls



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fogster.com
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ads@fogster.com
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Fogster.com is a unique Web site offering FREE postings from communities throughout the Bay Area and an opportunity for your ad to appear in the Pleasanton/Danville Weekly.

Now you can log on to fogster.com, day or night and get your ad started immediately online. Most listings are free print ad in our Peninsula newspapers with the option of photos and additional lines. Exempt are Business Services and Employment ads, which include a web listing charge. Home services and Mind & Body Services, require contact with a Customer Sales Representative.

So, the next time you have an item to sell, barter, give away or buy, get the perfect combination: print ads in your local newspapers, reaching more than 35,000 readers, and unlimited free Web postings reaching hundreds of thousands additional people!

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## Bulletin Board

### 115 Announcements

**7 mistakes people make** in Hiring an Accident lawyer. Toll Free Recorded Message Reveals All. Call 800-853-9315 Today! (Cal-SCAN)

**Considering Adoption?** We match Birthmothers with Families nationwide. Living Expenses Paid. Toll Free 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions. 1-866-459-3369. (Cal-SCAN)

**Considering Adoption?** We match Birthmothers with Families nationwide. LIVING EXPENSES PAID. Toll Free 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions 866-413-6293. (AAN CAN)

**Lender Foreclosure Auction.** 500+ Homes Must Be Sold! Northern CA Counties. Free Catalog 1-800-963-4551. www.USHomeAuction.com (Cal-SCAN)

**The EBBETTS Pass National** Scenic Bypass inaugural celebration event 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, 9/15/2007. You are invited to join in the fun! www.scenic4.org (800) 225-3764. (Cal-SCAN)

### \* DEADLINE \*

The Pleasanton/Danville Weekly Classified Advertising deadline is:

**Tuesday 12 Noon**  
through the business office  
**925-600-0840 x12**

**Tuesday 11:59 PM**  
through Fogster.com

*Avoid the last-minute rush -  
Place your ad early!*

First Time Home Buyer Seminar



**Singles Parties (Huge)**  
Meet upscale singles. Salsa Dance Lessons, Mingling. Dance to midnight. Call 925-937-4744

### 133 Music Lessons

**HARP LESSONS FOR ALL AGES**  
Try something new for Summer!  
Call **Bennetta Heaton**  
(925) 820-1169  
~ located in Danville ~

**LEARN TO SING & PERFORM!**  
Voice Studio of Cherie Michael  
Call **925-462-4419**  
for further information and to reserve your weekly lessons.

### Piano Lessons

Call Courtney (925)600-1573

### 140 Lost & Found

JEWELRY FOUND-TJMaxx,Dublin,8/29

## For Sale

### 201 Autos/Trucks/Parts

**\$500 Police Impounds**  
Cars from \$500! Tax Repos, US Marshal and IRS Sales! Cars, Trucks, SUVs, Toyotas, Hondas, Chevys, more!  
For Listings call 1-800-298-4150 xC107. (AAN CAN)

**Donate Vehicle,** running or not accepted! Free Towing. Tax Deductible. Noahs Arc - Support No Kill Shelters, Animal Rights, Research to Advance Veterinary Treatments/Cures. 1-866-912-GIVE. (Cal-SCAN)

**Donate your car:** Children's Cancer Fund! Help Save A Child's Life Through Research & Support! It's Fast, Easy & Tax Deductible. Please Call Today 1-800-252-0615. (Cal-SCAN)

**Donate Your Vehicle**  
Max IRS tax deductions. United Breast Cancer Foundation. Free Mammograms, breast cancer info, & services  
http://www.ubcf.info  
FREE towing, Fast, Any Condition Acceptable, 24/7  
1-888-468-5964 (AAN CAN)

Honda 2004 Accord Cpe LX - \$13,900  
Pace Arrow 1989 Motor Home - \$15,000. 0

### 210 Garage/Estate Sales

Lionel & Amflyer Trains, Sept. 14, 15, 16 9-5

Pleasanton, 4678 Mohr Avenue, Sat. Sept 15th, 9-2

Pleasanton, 5781 Corte Libre, Fri 9/14 and Sat 9/15, 8-4

**Pleasanton, 6917 Corte Monterey, September 15, 7:30-2:00**  
Garage Sale. Household items, furniture, appliances, etc. 8-10 houses in one cul-de-sac. 6917 Corte Monterey, Pleasanton

San Ramon, 9444 Olympia Fields Drive, September 15, 2007, 8-2

### STONERIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE

every Sept & April for the last 10 years - Over 50 Homes!

**Saturday, Sept 22, 8am-2pm (Start at 5277 Springdale)**  
Sponsored By Penny & Gary Palmatier  
UNITED CALIFORNIA BROKERS  
**925-931-1600**

Get a Map at: www.EastBayAreaHomes.com & area signs

### 215 Collectibles & Antiques

Beatles Record - \$2000 OBO  
Coffee Mill, Pepper Mill & Spice - \$89  
Garantied Forged Grinder - \$39  
Hood's Sarsaparilla bottle - \$28  
Lionel & AmFlyer Trains - \$1  
Olympic Pins - \$3  
Radio Flyer pumpercar - \$100 OBO

## fogster.com

### 240 Furnishings/Household items

Candles - \$15

Desk/file/shelves - \$800

Signed Print - \$7

### 245 Miscellaneous

**\$8 Prescriptions Eyeglasses**  
Custom made to your prescription, stylish plastic or metal frame, Highindex, UV protection, antiscratch lens, case, lens-cloth for only \$8. Also available: Rimless, Titanium, Children's™, Bifocals, Progressives, Suintints, ARcoating, etc. http://ZENNOPTICAL.COM (AAN CAN)

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**Metal Roofing**  
Buy Direct and save. \$100 jobsite delivery charge. All styles and colors. Detailed takeoffs make DIY easy. Absolute Steel 1-877-833-3237. Online quotes @ www.MetalRoofingSource.com (Cal-SCAN)

**Sawmills from Only \$2,990**  
Convert your Logs to Valuable Lumber with your own Norwood portable band sawmill. Log skidders also available. www.NorwoodIndustries.com -Free Information: 1-800-578-1363 x500-A. (Cal-SCAN)

### 250 Musical Instruments

Piano  
Antique Baby Grand Piano

### 260 Sports & Exercise Equipment

**Air Hockey Table**  
Air hockey table, full-size, in good shape.

## Kid's Stuff

### 330 Child Care Offered

Nessa's House Has Openings!

### 340 Child Care Wanted

Are you our Nanny????

Part Time Nanny Needed!

### 345 Tutoring/Lessons

**TUTORING - All levels K-12**  
Professional Instruction by Certified Teacher to insure excellent results and maximize learning. Spanish instruction also available.  
Call Lynn 925-518-1285

### 350 Preschools/Schools/Camps

**Preschool Now Enrolling Two's**  
St. Clare's Christian Preschool  
(925) 462-0938  
3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton

Half and Full Day programs Monday - Friday, 7am-6pm.  
Need not be potty trained.  
Age appropriate curriculum  
Excellent child teacher ratio  
Staff CPR and First Aid certified

State Licensing Number: 010212344

### 355 Items for Sale

jogging stroller & boys clothes  
lot of activities books for kids  
Pajamas for kids 3-4 years old  
Swimming suit & more, from \$1 - \$1

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## Jobs

### 500 Help Wanted

**Driveline Retail**  
is seeking merchandisers with prior retail experience to call on local stores. No Selling. Must be friendly, reliable, and able to work with limited supervision. Hourly pay. Send name, e-mail address, city, state, and zip code to: cempson@storecast.com (Cal-SCAN)

**1000 Envelopes = \$10,000**  
Receive \$10 for every envelope stuffed with our sales material. Guaranteed! Free information: 24 hour recording 1-800-861-9271. (AAN CAN)

**Ambitious? Tired of Trading Time 4 \$**  
Earn Executive Level Income w/o the stress. Call 800-470-4876.

**Caregivers / CNAs / HHAs**  
Visiting Angels (Fremont office) has immediate openings for experienced caregivers!  
All shifts available, top pay rates, insurance benefits & bonuses paid!  
510-795-7383

**NANNIES NEEDED!!!**  
Awesome Positions! No Fee!  
\$13-18/hr  
**A Nanny Connection**  
925-743-0587  
www.nannyconnection.com

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**Optician/Manager**  
National retail Optical Co has opening for CA Lic'd, ABOC preferred to manage local outlet. Pay + Commission + Benefits, 401K. Call Today! 1-800-248-2255

### 550 Business Opportunities

**\$700-\$800K Free Cash Grants**  
Programs - 2007!, Personal bills, School, Business/Housing. Approx. \$49 billion unclaimed 2006! Almost Everyone Qualifies! Live Operators 1-800-592-0362 Ext. 235. (AAN CAN)

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Make \$100-\$300/day. No Experience Required, Meet celebrities, Full Time/Part Time, All looks needed! Call Now! 1-800-556-6103 extension 528. (AAN CAN)

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**Start your own**  
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**Vending Route - Snack/Soda.**  
All Brands, All Sizes. Healthy & Energy Too! Great Equipment, Great Locations! Financing Available w/\$7,500 Down. 1-877-843-8726. www.SnackSodaVendingRoutes.com (Cal-SCAN)

**No Travel Involved!**  
AS400,000 first-year income potential!  
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**A Cool Travel Job.**  
Now hiring motivated sharp individuals to work and travel entire USA. Paid training. Transportation, lodging furnished. Call today, Start today. 1-877-646-5050. (Cal-SCAN)

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Growing Carrier w/Solid Customer Base Needing Great Quality Drivers! We Listen. We Pay Attention. Call MCKELVEY Now 1-800-410-6255. (Cal-SCAN)

**Bartenders Needed**  
Looking for part/full time bartenders. Several positions available. No experience required. With hourly wages and tips make up to \$300 per shift. Call (800) 806-0082 ext. 200. (AAN CAN)

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One month paid Training! \$500 Sign on Bonus Must be free to travel & Start Today. 1-800-735-7409. (AAN CAN)

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Great Pay, Benefits. Weekly Home Time. Top of the line equipment. No CDL? No Problem! Apply online www.CREngland.com Call 1-866-917-7396. (Cal-SCAN)

**Driver - CDL Training:**  
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**Driver:**  
Don't Just Start Your Career, Start It Right! Company Sponsored CDL training in 3 weeks. Must be 21. Have CDL? Tuition Reimbursement! www.JoinCRST.com 1-800-781-2778. (Cal-SCAN)

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The respect that you deserve. . . Get it at Swift! Swift offers excellent miles, compensation, regional and dedicated runs. No experience necessary! Training available. 1-866-476-6828. www.SwiftTruckingJobs.com. EOE (Cal-SCAN)

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Do you love the outdoors and helping  
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(AAN CAN)

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**Sponsored CDL Training**  
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will sponsor the total cost of your CDL  
training! Excellent Benefits & 401K! No  
Money Down! No Credit Checks! EOE.  
Call Now! 1-800-333-8595, 1-800-358-  
9512. [www.BecomeADriver.com](http://www.BecomeADriver.com) (Cal-  
SCAN)

## Business Services

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**NEED HELP WITH QUICKBOOKS?**  
Over 18 years experience in all  
aspects of bookkeeping.  
*No job too big or too small!*  
Call Linda at 925-918-2233

### 604 Adult Care Offered



**Val Vista Home**  
A home away from home.

### 605 Antiques & Art Restoration

**"A Labor of Love"**  
**Antique Furniture Restoration & Repair**  
925-462-0383  
Impeccable Quality & Integrity of Workmanship

### 615 Computers

Computer Help  
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**"Best of the East Bay"**  
**Ken Cook**  
*"I Make House Calls!"*  
Tune-up/Repair/Upgrade/Training  
More info/rates: [www.trivalleypcmedic.com](http://www.trivalleypcmedic.com)  
M-F 8a-8p / Wknds & Hols 9a-6p  
Lic #011068 - PCC, PDA & BBB  
Call 485-9040 or 989-7722

### 624 Financial

**Credit Repair**  
Erase bad credit legally. Money back  
Warranty, FREE Consultation and  
Information: 888-996-3672 <http://www.amfcs.com> (AAN CAN)

**fogster.com**

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Secrets of Auto Accident Claims. Call  
800-861-1267 today! Leave Your Name  
and Address to Receive your Free  
Report. (Cal-SCAN)

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value that works out to about \$12.86  
per newspaper). Call (916) 288-6019  
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**To get a press release**  
published it is critical for the release to  
land in the hands of the right people.  
The California Press Release Service is  
the only service with 500 current daily,  
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in California. Questions call (916) 288-  
6010. [www.CaliforniaPressReleaseService.com](http://www.CaliforniaPressReleaseService.com) (Cal-SCAN)

**BLUE WRENCH INC.**  
EARTHQUAKE VALVES INSTALLED  
In the event of an Earthquake is your  
home ready?  
Your gas to your home will automati-  
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5.0 or higher.  
Some home insurance compaines  
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Protect your home today from broken  
gas lines that could be caused in  
an Earthquake.  
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Valve and Installation \$395.  
Call 925.353.0078  
License #867155

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**Fabulous Friends**  
**A Pet Sitting Service**  
Licensed & Bonded  
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sbnbart@comcast.net  
Nicki Bartels  
925.989.4586

## Home Services

### 701 AC/Heating

**RICHARD'S HEATING**  
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"Too Hot, Too Cold - Give Us A Call"  
We strive to repair, not replace!  
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### 703 Concrete

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Patios\*Walks\*Driveways\*Stamp  
\*Color\*All Finishes\*Bobcat  
\*Dump\*Demolition\*Foundations  
\*Additions\*  
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CA Lic 751784  
**DANVILLE CONCRETE**  
Stamped Concrete, Patio, Sidewalk,  
Driveway, Pool Deck, Retaining Wall.  
Any concrete finishing  
(925) 736-8042



## Furry Friends

### Pet Sitting Services

Accommodating  
Healthy and  
Special Needs  
Pets

Trained professional, daily visits,  
basic home care, reliable & caring.  
—Serving Pleasanton / Livermore Only—  
**Call Monika Harris 417-0424**  
Registered Veterinary Nurse

### 715 Cleaning Services

**#1 For Homes & Apartments**  
**SARA'S HOUSECLEANING**  
~ Professional & Affordable ~  
Free Est/Supplies Provided  
\$25 off 1st & 2nd cleaning  
Call (925) 339-2193

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Residential is our specialty  
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available soon, please contact Rick at  
510-329-1417 or reply to email  
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Pleasanton, 3 BR/2 BA - \$1975/month

### 815 Rentals Wanted

**Wonderful Family Needs Housing**  
We are a professional couple with a  
wonderful 4 year old and a second on  
the way! We need a 4 BDRM in Danville  
(preferably near Vista Grande Elementary  
School). If you have a property available  
or know of one coming up in the next  
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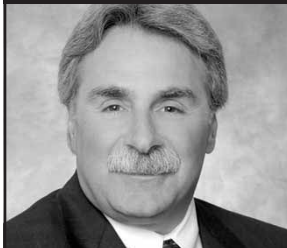
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3.5 ac Ranch Homesites, starting at \$39,900 outside Ruidoso, New Mexico. Located 30 minutes outside Ruidoso. Affordable living with no compromises. Stunning land, hard surfaced roads, municipal water, adjacent to golf, convenient to all Ruidoso has, but more affordable, bigger & prettier. Call NML&R, Inc. 1-888-417-2624. (Cal-SCAN)

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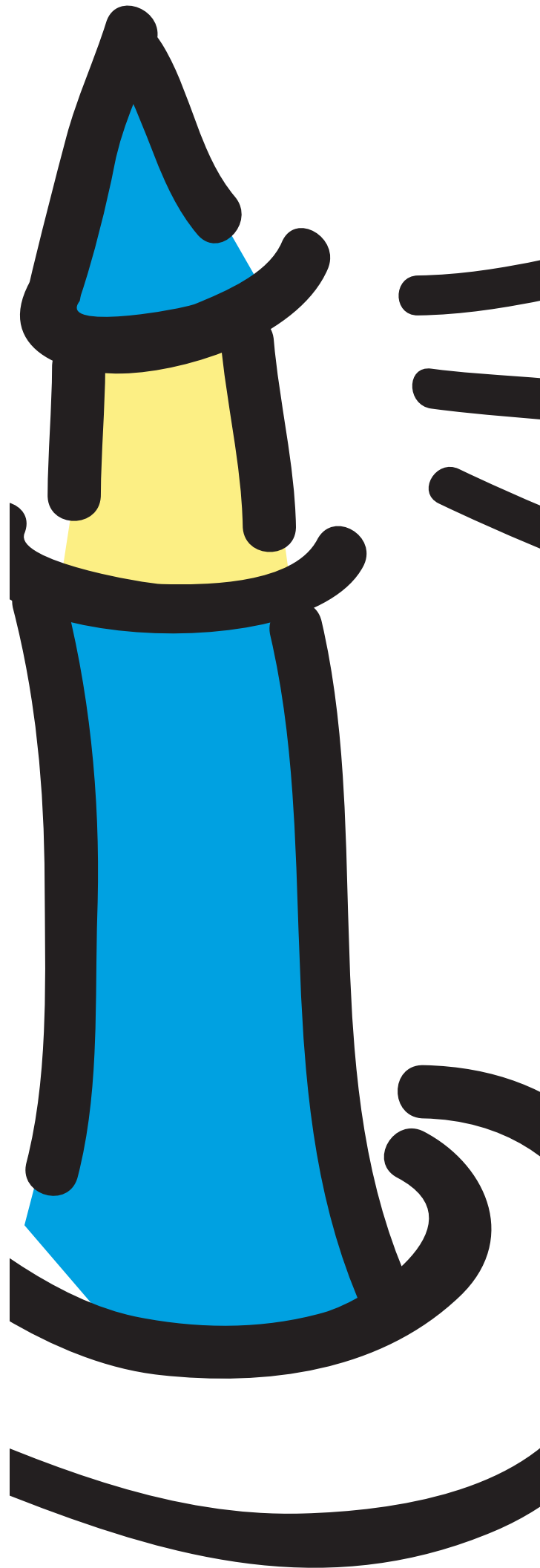
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**Pet of The Week**



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# Calendar

## Auditions

**Valley Concert Choral** Valley Concert Choral to hold auditions, open rehearsal night Sept. 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.valleyconcertcho-rale.org](http://www.valleyconcertcho-rale.org).

## Author Visits

**Anita Amirrezvani—The Blood of Flowers** The author offers a rare look inside the lives of Iranian women and transports readers to the vibrant markets of Isfahan, the rooms of the Shah's royal rug workshop and more at 2 p.m. Sept. 16 at the Livermore Public Library, 1188 S Livermore Ave.

**Author Everett "Skip" Mohatt** Everett "Skip" Mohatt will discuss his newest book, *Beyond Ceilings*, 2 p.m. Sept. 16 at Towne Center Books,

555 Main St. *Beyond Ceilings* is an autobiographical continuation of ceilings and much of it takes place in Pleasanton. Skip is known for coaching, teaching, and the founding the Amador Competition Civics Team. Call 846-8826.

**Travel Writer for Women** Stephanie Griest will talk about her book *100 Places Every Woman Should Go* at 7 p.m. Sept. 20 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Call 846-8826.

## Civic Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

starting Sept. 19 at Valley Christian Center, 7500 Inspiration Drive, Dublin. While most training focuses on job knowledge and management skills, this series targets the practices and behaviors of great leadership. Children's programs too. The cost is \$25. Register online at [www.dublinvcc.org](http://www.dublinvcc.org).

**Marriage Builders—All Ages** Burning with love's fire, engaged couples are filled with desires and expectations. Then comes the marriage and sometimes those unrealized expectations and unmet wants can turn a life-giving relationship into a dead-end agreement. This free class meets Sundays at 9:30 starting Sept. 23 at Valley Christian Center, 7500 Inspiration Drive, Dublin. Call 560-6234.

## Clubs

**Local Writers Meet for Support and Learning** The California Writers Club Tri-Valley branch meets the at 11:30 a.m. the third Saturday of each month at Oasis Grill, 780 Main St., to support experienced and aspiring writers in learning about their craft and sharing their work. Anyone who is curious about the group is invited to attend with no obligation to join. Call Kathy Urban, 296-0447 or visit [www.trivalleywriters.com](http://www.trivalleywriters.com).

**Assemblymember Hayashi Updates Democrats** The public is invited to hear Assemblymember Mary Hayashi talk about her first months in the legislature at 7 p.m. Sept. 17 at IBEW 595 Union Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. She represents District 18: Dublin, most of Castro Valley, Pleasanton & other areas. She works on health, education and budget/ taxation legislative issues. Wheelchair accessible. Call 831-8355 or visit [www.TriValleyDems.com](http://www.TriValleyDems.com).

**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, a yard of unbleached muslin, sharp scissors and dressmaker pins.

**International Terrorism Expert to Speak** Hoover Institution Senior Fellow Dr. Abraham D. Sofaer will address the San Ramon Valley Republican Women at 6 p.m. Sept. 25 at the Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. The topic will be "The Impact of International Terrorism on the 2008 Presidential Campaign." This is the annual Barbara Olson Memorial Meeting. Tickets are \$30. Visit [srwvf.org](http://srwvf.org).

## 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).

**James Logan High School Reunion** Class of 1972 is hosting a multi-year reunion for classes 1971-74 at 6 p.m. Sept. 22 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Union City. Tickets are \$85 per person. Call Carol, (510) 471-0510. You must RSVP for the buffet dinner. Crowne Plaza Hotel, Union City.

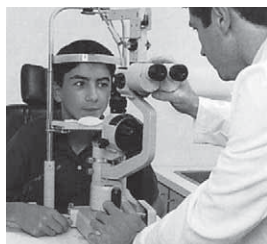
## Classes

**Becoming a Love and Logic Parent** "Creating A Happy Family and Responsible Kids from Elementary Age to Young Adults" is a class meeting Wednesdays starting Sept. 19 at 7 p.m. at Valley Christian Center, 7500 Inspiration Drive, Dublin. Learn practical tips, powerful tools and see immediate results. Free children's programs too. The cost is \$25. Call 560-6234 or visit [www.dublinvcc.org](http://www.dublinvcc.org).

**Developing the Leader Within** Based on Maxwell's, "Developing the Leader Within You," this workshop teaches you how to implement the behaviors of successful leadership. It will be held Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

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## Calendar

celebrates 20 years with Picnic 4 Pets. Enjoy an afternoon of food by Back 40 Texas BBQ, carnival games, face painting, balloons, inflatable slide, wine and beer garden and music. Bring the family dog for contests of Best Trick, Best Beggar, Cutest, and Doggie Idol. Co-sponsored by SuperFranks Fun Adventures. Tickets are \$10 and \$25. Call Wendy, 426-8656 or visit [www.valleyhumane.org](http://www.valleyhumane.org).

**Pleasanton Heritage Festival** The 24th annual Pleasanton Heritage Festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 22-23 in downtown Pleasanton. It features 200 high quality art and crafts, historical displays, vintage craft demonstrations, entertainment, kids activity area, great food and beverages. Hosted by the Pleasanton Downtown Association. Call 484-2199 or visit [www.mlproductions.com](http://www.mlproductions.com).

**Porsche Concours d'Elegance** From 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 17, show and view beautiful Porsches at Heather Farm Park, 301 N San Carlos Drive at Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and judging begins at 10 a.m. Judged cars are \$20 per car and display cars \$5.00 per car. call 371-2258.

**Tracy Cultural Arts Grand Theatre Opening** The Tracy Cultural Arts Grand Theatre (715 Central Ave., Tracy) Opening events Sept 15-16, including: a ribbon cutting at 9 a.m., tours until 3 p.m., The Making of an Artist 6 p.m., Keith Arlen Lack 7 p.m., Jeff Bordes and the Jazz Desperados 8 p.m. (fee); Sunday tours at 11 a.m. and a screening of "Gone with the Wind" at 2 p.m. (25 cents). Call 833-6858.

## Exhibits

**Cat In The Hat Turns 50** View rare, new limited-edition prints by Theodor Seuss Geisel, a.k.a. Dr. Seuss, at this 50th anniversary exhibition from Sept.

15-30 at Studio 7 Fine Arts, 400 Main St. Cupcakes and a Seuss-character coloring contest are the festivities from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 15. Seuss story readings at 1, 2 and 3 p.m.

**Exhibit Commemorates America's Love of the Automobile** Worthington Gallery West, 739 Main St. Ste. J, hosts an exhibit, "Pin-ups and Pinstripes," runs through Sept. 22. Call 485-1183 or visit [www.worthingtongallerywest.com](http://www.worthingtongallerywest.com).

**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).

## Film

**God Grew Tired Of Us** Free screening of "God Grew Tired of Us" at 6 p.m. Sept. 23 at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road. This Sunset Film Festival award-winner explores the indomitable spirit of three of the "lost boys" of Sudan as they overcome adversity and come to America. Visit [www.stclarespleasanton.org](http://www.stclarespleasanton.org).

**Guerrilla Wars: Cuba, Vietnam, Afghanistan** Insightful interviews from participants and fresh footage show us why this series, "People's Century," won both Peabody and Emmy awards. Shown Sept. 22 at IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin, the meet and greet begins at 6:30 p.m. and a short discussion follows this film, which is open to all, wheelchair accessible, and refreshments are served. A \$3 donation is optional. Call 462-3459.

## Pleasanton PD & PUSD Adult Ed Offer...

### The Parent Project®

Are you a parent who is dealing with a teen who is out of control or engaging in destructive behavior? If so, *The Parent Project* is an interactive class that provides parents the tools to effectively deal with these behaviors.

Classes held at Pleasanton PD/Tuesday evenings: 6-9 PM  
Classes run from 09/25/07 – 12/11/07

For more information or to register call  
PUSD Adult Education at (925) 426-4280

By working together,  
we can ensure a safe community.

A reminder from the  
*Pleasanton Police Department.*



Pleasanton Unified School District, Pleasanton Police Department, and Amador Valley Adult & Community Education Present:

## A Town Hall Meeting to Continue the conversation... About Adolescent Drinking, Drug and Tobacco Use in Our Community



### We all need to know...

- 32% of 11th graders in Pleasanton have used marijuana
- 23% of 11th graders have engaged in "binge" drinking in the past 30 days
- 24% of 11th graders have been in a car with a driver under the influence

(California Healthy Kids Survey Data, 2005)

### It's up to all of us...

This is a follow-up from the successful Town Hall meeting last spring to "Start the Conversation...about Adolescent Drinking, Drug and Tobacco Use in Our Community."

### Come hear...

A panel of PUSD staff and students and Pleasanton Police Department answer parents' questions and concerns about teen high risk behaviors.

Thursday, September 20, 2007 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Amador Valley High School Library  
1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton

To RSVP or for more information, please call Amador Valley Adult School at: (925) 426-4280.

## What Are You Waiting For? GET INVOLVED!



www.trivalleyrotary.org  
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Can't make noon or AM meetings but want to work with other professionals who share the same passion for making a difference?

The Rotary Club of the Tri-Valley meets on Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. at Girasole Grill --3180 Santa Rita Road in Pleasanton. The only evening club in the Tri-Valley!

WEEKLY SPEAKER PROGRAM - NEW FRIENDS - VISIT US!  
COMMUNITY SERVICE & PROFESSIONAL GROWTH - WHY NOT?

## Pleasanton Real Estate News



by  
Gerarda  
Stocking

### WHAT IS AMORTIZATION?

This turns out to be a simple matter, easily understood by all of us. And a knowledge of how amortization can help guide a few important financial decisions.

We're talking about the payment on a fixed-rate mortgage here. The figures work a bit differently in an adjustable rate mortgage, and we'll get to that in another column.

For now, just remember that there is one unchanging monthly payment amount for all or all but the last of your 360 monthly payments. That payment consists of one month's worth, or one-twelfth, of a year's interest payment on the loan balance as it stands that month. The remainder of the payment goes toward reducing the loan balance.

Therefore, if the loan balance declines, the amount of interest in your payment declines and you pay down the loan more quickly. This isn't rocket science. It's the simple basis for what is called an "accelerated loan payoff," in which you reduce the number of payments (and interest) needed to fully pay off your loan. And it's a principle you can often use to your benefit. For more information call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

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## Fundraisers

**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 or call 846-4774.

**Food Drive** Dinner My Way has extended its food drive for Tri-Valley Haven through September. Donate non-perishable foods will be accepted at the store 1989 Santa Rita Road. Call 485-4286.

**Savor the Season** Celebrate the fall harvest with gourmet seasonal food and estate wines from Wente Vineyards from noon to 3 p.m. Sept. 23. Enjoy special guest speaker Joey Altman, celebrity chef and host of Bay Café; live music with the Silverwood Jazz Quartet; silent and live auctions; and more. The cost is \$125. Benefits the Alameda County Community Food Bank. Call (510) 635-3663 ext. 328 or visit www.accfb.org.

**Special Event Benefits Wardrobe for Opportunity** Acc'sentials will sponsor a donation drive from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 15 at 520 Main St. to benefit Wardrobe for Opportunity, which provides professional clothing and career support to low-income job-seekers. There will also be a special, free event in Acc'sentials' garden courtyard from 2 to 4 p.m., with food, music and wine.

**Valley Dance Theatre Fusion Gala 2007** Join the Valley Dance Theatre for a fun evening of wine, hors d'oeuvres, dancing, live music and silent auction, and classical ballet at 5 p.m. Sept. 29 at First Presbyterian Church, 2020 5th St., Livermore. Tickets are \$75 per person or \$600 for a table of 8. Call 243-0925 or visit www.valleydancetheatre.com.

## Health

**Hip Resurfacing Surgery Seminar** John Knight, M.D., orthopedic surgeon, will discuss a new hip replacement surgery for younger active adults that involves resurfacing the hip bone at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 26 at the San Ramon Regional Medical Center, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. The new technique conserves more bone by removing the rough damaged hip surface and replaces it with a durable high carbide cobalt chrome. Call (800) 284-2878.

## Holiday

**Yom Kippur** Tri-Valley Cultural Jews holds Secular Humanistic Jewish observance of Yom Kippur at 2 p.m. Sept. 22. Program of music, poetry and readings. No charge, but opportunities for contributions to international, national and local charities. TVCJ welcomes non-traditional and intermarried families. Email CulturalJews@aol.com.

## Kids & Teens

**Opening Day Celebration—Program for Jewish Teens Comes to Pleasanton** Midrasha Tri-Valley/Tri-Cities, a program for Jewish teens in grades 8 through 12 to learn about their religion and heritage in a fun environment, is hosting an opening day celebration on Sunday, September 30 at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court. There will be a student program and a reception for parents. Call 549-1664.

## Lectures/ Workshops

**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.

**Financial Management** Join us from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sept. 19 at the Carr America Conference Center, 4400 Rosewood Drive, for a discussion about financial management for technology entrepreneurs, including some accounting basics. Call 960-1600 or visit www.techventures.org.

**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.

**Wealth Building Educational Event** At 6:30 p.m. Sept. 19, learn new strategies to build real wealth at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel, 2600 Bishop Drive. Registration required. Call 855-3205.

## Live Music

**Pleasanton Community Concert Band** From 2-4 p.m. Sept. 22, The Pleasanton Community Concert Band will be performing at the Livermore Airport Open House. Included in the musical selections will be tunes from the World War II era as well as big band favorites. Enjoy the airplanes that will be on display and have a picnic while you enjoy the sounds of the Pleasanton Community Concert Band.

## Miscellaneous

**Au Pair International Potluck** At 4 p.m. Sept. 23, Au pairs from Cultural Care Au Pair will be cooking tasty dishes for an international potluck at Val Vista Park in Pleasanton. Au pairs from other agencies or families interested in finding out about having an au pair are welcome to come. Please RSVP to heidibrewer@sbcglobal.net.

**Competition for Young Musicians** The Livermore-Amador Symphony Association hosts the 35th annual Competition for Young Musicians. Applications, a \$5 fee and a tape, CD or DVD is due by Oct. 7. Open to instrumentalists and vocalists who reside or attend school in Livermore, Sunol, Pleasanton, Dublin or San Ramon (through grade 12) are eligible. Each winner will be awarded \$250. Call 447-1947 or visit www.livamsymph.org.

**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.

## On Stage

**Disney's 101 Dalmatians** Creekside Kids' Theatre at Creekside Community Church at 951 Macarthur Blvd., San Leandro, presents "101 Dalmatians." Special school show is at 10 a.m. Sept. 21. Tickets are \$1. Evening shows at 7 p.m. Sept. 21 and 22 are \$3 (3 and under free). Call Jenny Bruce for reservations, (510) 430-0607.

## Seniors

**Dublin Senior Center Extends Hours** Live at the Senior Center! It's Wednesday Night! Do you yoga? Have a question about computers? Enjoy playing games? Sign the interest list and we will try to organize new activities on Wednesday nights at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. Starting Sept. 12, the Senior Center will extend its Wednesday hours to 8 p.m. Call 556-4511.

**Gujarati Dinner** Tri Valley Gujarati Seniors holds monthly meetings with varied themes. Interested Gujarati Seniors are welcome to attend as guests. For additional information, call 846-3521. 6:30-9:30 p.m. None

**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.

## Spiritual

**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.

**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.

## Support Groups

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

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

# Transitions

## Obituaries

### Policronia Sinay

Policronia Sinay died Aug. 24 at the age of 85.

Born Feb. 17, 1922, Mrs. Sinay was a native of Leyte, Philippines who lived in Pleasanton for 40 years.

She spent her time doting on her large family, including her white poodle, Princess. She looked forward to hosting Thanksgiving and Christmas gatherings in her neat, Commanche Way townhome. An ever increasing group of family and friends attended these celebrations. She will be missed during the upcoming holidays, but will be remembered by all.

Affectionately called "Mama" by her family, she is survived by children Franco Sinay (wife Vangie), Jose Sinay (wife Debbie), Fred Sinay, Edgar Sinay, Elizabeth Hayes (husband Gregory) and Irma Sinay (wife of Sonny); grandchildren James, Kathleen, Michael, Edwin, Maritess, Angela, Jay, Robert, Evanco, Kale, Aiden, Sheldon, Olivia and Holly; great-grandchildren Jasmine, EJ, DJ, Evan and Robert Jr.

Visitation and vigil services were held Aug. 26 and 27 at Graham-Hitch Mortuary. A mass was held Aug. 28 at St. Augustine Catholic Church with a burial following at St. Augustine's Cemetery.

### Spencer Clark

Spencer Clark died Aug. 26 at Stanford University Hospital at the age of 43.

Mr. Clark was born June 19, 1964 in San Jose. A resident of Los Gatos for 30 years, he attended Saint Mary's Elementary and Los Gatos High schools. He later attended Chico State and received a Bachelor

of Science in business administration. He went on to receive his Master of Business Administration from Golden Gate University. His talent for working with people was obvious at an early age.

Upon receiving his MBA, Mr. Clark accepted a position at Intel Corporation where he continued to excel until his untimely death. He will be missed by all of those at Intel that ever had the privilege of working with him.

He enjoyed his family, hunting and fishing.

He is survived by wife of 11 years Patricia Clark; sons Derek, Kohlten, Zieren; daughter Kaciah; brothers Brad Clark of Fort Bragg and Reid Clark of Santa Cruz; sisters Dana Stroud of Lodi and Caralee White of Gardnerville; Uncle Ken of Gardnerville, Nev.; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Mr. Clark was preceded in death by parents Dan and Elizabeth Clark.

A memorial mass was held Sept. 4 at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Cardiovascular Research at Stanford University Medical Center, 2700 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025; checks should be made to Stanford University.

### Albert Raymond Schott

Albert Raymond Schott died Aug. 26 in Livermore at the age of 88.

Mr. Schott resided in Pleasanton for the past 36 years. Formerly of San Francisco, he made his home for 52 years where he and his beloved wife raised their family.

After graduating from Mission High School, he served his country proudly in the U.S. Army. He was a shipping clerk for the Port of Oakland for 35 years and was a member of ILWU Local No. 34.

He enjoyed fishing at Lake Del Valle, watching baseball and "60 Minutes" on TV.

Mr. Schott is survived by his beloved wife of 56 years Bernice R. Schott; daughters Patricia Schott of Central Valley and Mary Schott of Livermore; son Albert (Abbey) Schott of the Central Valley; sister Trudy; brothers France and Amiel; grandchildren Gustavo Carrillo, Yvette Carrillo, Jeremiah Munson, Michael Schott; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and most of his brothers and sisters.

Visitation was held Aug. 31 at Graham-Hitch Mortuary, followed by a funeral mass at St. Augustine Catholic Church. He was buried Sept. 4 at the Sacramento Valley Veterans Cemetery in Dixon, Calif.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the American Cancer Society, 7000 Village Pkwy., Ste. E, Dublin, CA 94568.

### Corday "C.L." Johnson, Jr.

Corday "C.L." Johnson, Jr. died Aug. 20 at the age of 68 from complications of surgery at ValleyCare Medical Center with his family at his side.

Mr. Johnson and Jan, his wife of 40 years, have been longtime residents of Pleasanton. Born Oct. 16, 1938 in Hayward to Helen and Corday Johnson, Sr., Mr. Johnson grew up there and was a 1956 graduate of Hayward High School. He worked at Hayward Plate Glass and Mirror Company from that time until his retirement in 1997. Prior to his death, he was presented with a gold watch and plaque honoring his 50 years as a member of the Glaziers and Glassworkers Union Local No. 169. He also served as an MP in the U.S. Army in the 1960s.

(continued on page 26)

## Births

### Quinn Michael Delamain

Quinn Michael Delamain was born June 29 at Kaiser Walnut Creek to parents Rick and Denise Delamain. The baby boy weighed in at 8 lbs. 3 oz. and was 19 1/2 inches long. Baby Quinn joins big brothers Aidan and Roan.



## Weddings

### Courtney Brown and Dustin Rubin

Courtney Brown and Dustin Rubin were married at Valley Community Church in Pleasanton on May 27, 2007 with Pastor Leron Heath officiating the ceremony. A reception followed at the Four Points Sheraton in Pleasanton.

Courtney, the daughter of Dale and Eleanor Brown, is a graduate of Foothill High School. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in environmental studies and earth science from UC Santa Cruz. She currently works for the city of Redwood City in the water resources department.

Dustin, the son of Robert and Monique Rubin of Sebastopol, Calif., is a graduate of Analy High School in Sebastopol. He earned a



Bachelor of Science degree in computer science from UC Santa Cruz. He is currently working for Nvidia in Santa Clara.

Courtney's maid of honor was her sister Kimberly, who was joined by fellow bridesmaids Sabrina Houston and Claire Rubin, the groom's sister. Dustin's best man was Brent Stradford, whose fellow groomsman included Ken Noguchi and Adam McKibben.

The newlyweds honeymooned on Kauai, Hawaii and reside in Santa Clara.

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Raffle tickets: \$5 each or 5 for \$20  
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[amadorvalley.assistanceleague.org](http://amadorvalley.assistanceleague.org)

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Mr. Johnson was a collector of toy trains, enjoyed golfing and was a loyal fan of the San Jose Sharks and the Oakland Athletics.

He is survived by wife Jan, sisters Barbara Ruibal of Colfax, Calif. and Linda Jackson (Steve) of Chicago Park, Calif.; brother David Johnson of Clermont, N.Y.; and numerous in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins and a long list of friends.

A celebration of life ceremony will be held at noon today, Sept. 14, at the Pleasanton Hotel. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Heart Association or the American Cancer Society.

### George E. Johnston

Surrounded by his family, George E. Johnston died Aug. 20 of cardiovascular disease at ValleyCare Medical Center. He was 68.

After graduation from high school, Mr. Johnston was employed by PG&E and served two years in the U.S. Army, receiving an honorable discharge.



In 1965, he joined the California Highway Patrol and received motorcycle training in East Los Angeles. After returning to Oakland, he was assigned to the San Leandro (later Hayward) Division where he earned the nickname "cool breeze." He was a member of the Golden Gate Protective Services Division which provided dignitary and allied agencies protection and was recipient of two commissioner's unit citations. Mr. Johnston was proud to be named the first motorcycle training officer in Hayward.

He coordinated traffic control at the Alameda County Fair for 16 years, receiving the Western Fair Association Blue Ribbon Award in recognition. Upon retirement due to disability, his CHP career ended after 18 years. In 1984, Mr. Johnston was employed as an electrician for the Alameda County Fairgrounds until he retired in 1998. He felt lucky to have tremendous camaraderie with both the CHP and Alameda County Fair families.

His hobbies included reading, Cal football games and enjoying

his backyard "shed" which provided him quiet time and space to relax. He was a loving husband, father and grandpa who loved his family unconditionally and spoke proudly of them.

Mr. Johnston is survived by his beloved wife of 42 years, Alice, his beloved three sons: Greg, Joe, Paul and wife Helena; three grandchildren: Alyssa, Jake and Maya; sister Diane; brother Hal; nephew Donald and wife Kelly; and niece Jennifer. He also leaves behind cousins, nieces, and Godchildren in California, relatives in New Jersey and friends everywhere. He was preceded in death by his parents George and Helen Johnston.

A celebration of life is scheduled for 1 p.m. Sept. 23 in the Wine Garden at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

The family prefers donations be sent to the American Heart Association in San Francisco.

### Laurence "Larry" Llewellyn Ely

Laurence "Larry" Llewellyn Ely died Aug. 27 in Livermore at the age of 76. Mr. Ely was born Jan. 25, 1931 in Santa Monica, Calif. After graduating from Los Angeles High School, he spent four years in the U.S. Navy. He later returned to California where he met his wife and the love of his life Patricia Keefe. Mr. Ely and "Patty" were married for 52 years.

Family was very important to Mr. Ely and they not only enjoyed an earthly family tie, but an eternal one as well. One of his lasting accomplishments was his business, AquaTemp Company, which was begun in 1972. It is now owned by son Andy and managed by son-in-law Phil. Mr. Ely was a fisherman, craftsman and mechanic but he is universally remembered for his ability to make people laugh.

Mr. Ely came to know Jesus Christ in his late 60s, which changed his life as well as those around him.

One of the founders of the Pleasanton Girls Softball League, Mr. Ely

held numerous board positions and coached many different teams. He was instrumental with starting the original inter-city all-star Augie Mora tournaments held every year with San Ramon, Castro Valley,

Livermore, Fremont, Union City, San Leandro and Dublin. He also gathered many volunteers to help maintain the fields, coach and build the original "green shack" for the snack bar and equipment storage. Mr. Ely also coached varsity softball at Foothill High School from 1978 to 1987 as well as at St. Mary's College from 1988 to 1990.

He is survived by his beloved wife Patty; his children Julie Downing, Laurie Ely, Joanie Hathaway, Andy Ely, Kelly Stone and Kerry Grant; and 19 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Sept. 1 at Fountain Community Church in Pleasanton.



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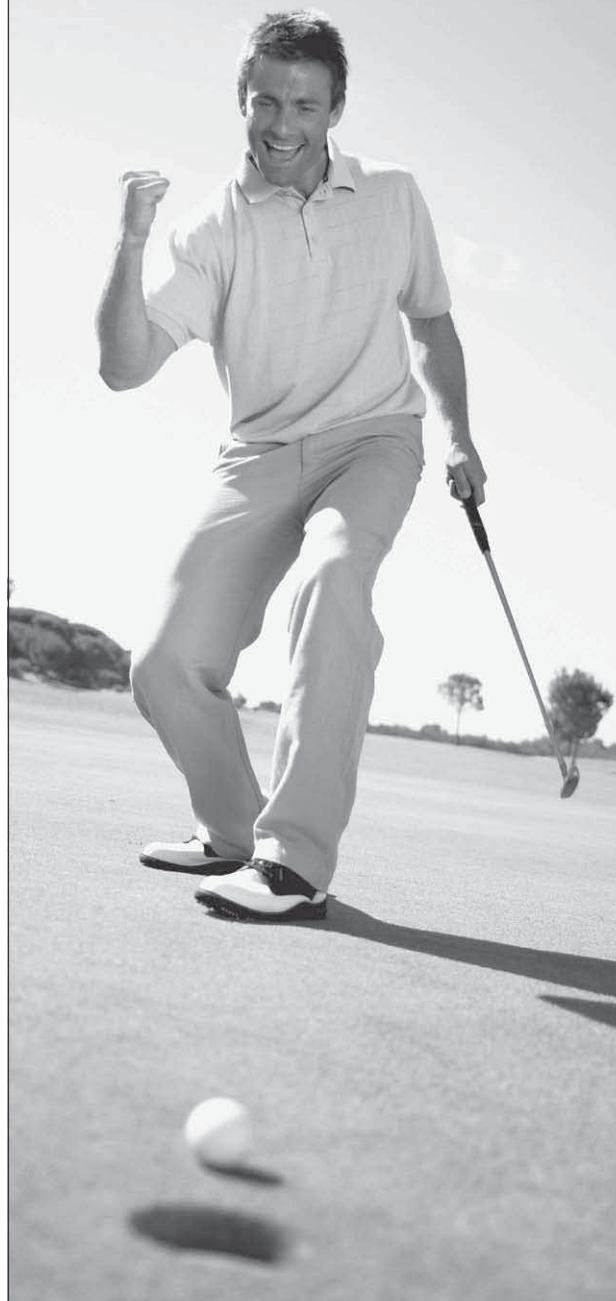
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### Speakers:

**John Knight, M.D.**  
Orthopedic Surgeon

**Kim Howard, D.P.T.**  
Physical Therapy Supervisor

**Free Educational Seminar**  
**September 26, 2007**  
**7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

San Ramon Regional Medical Center  
South Building, South Conference Room  
7777 Norris Canyon Road  
San Ramon

Space is limited. Reservations are required.  
For reservations, please visit  
[www.sanramonmedctr.com](http://www.sanramonmedctr.com) or call  
800.284.2878 any time 24 hours a day.

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Each office is independently owned and operated.

# Dining Out

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

## American

### Vic's All Star Kitchen

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

### Bridges

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

### Pleasanton Hotel Restaurant

855 Main St., Pleasanton, 846-8106. Executive Chef Neil Marquis offers exciting contemporary American cooking at lunch and dinner, featuring a wide selection of fresh fish entrees.

Also offering our famous Sunday Champagne Buffet Brunch full bar and patio service. Visit us at [www.pleasantonhotel.com](http://www.pleasantonhotel.com) for menus and private party and catering details.

## Asian-Pacific

### Mahalo Grille

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

## Barbecue

### Red Smoke Grill

4501 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 734-0307. Home of the Tri Tip and Blue, Red Smoke Grill was voted best take out food by Pleasanton Weekly readers in 2006. Dine in or take out rotisserie chicken, ribs, prawns, salads

and tri tip, or pulled pork sandwiches. Relax with a beer or a bottle of wine. Visit [www.redsmokegrill.com](http://www.redsmokegrill.com).

## Brewpub/Alehouse

### The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill

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

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

## California Cuisine

### Stacey's at Waterford

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

### Stacey's Cafe

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

## Catering

### Fontina's Catering

349 Main St., Downtown

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

## Chinese

### Chinese Szechuan

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

### Panda Mandarin Cuisine

30 W. Angela St., Pleasanton, 484-4880. Panda offers several delicious specials using fresh ingredients and

(continued on page 28)

fiery, hot, exotic

**50% OFF** SECOND ENTREE OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE. EXP 9-30-07



TEMPT YOUR PALATE WITH OUR JUICY KABOBS, RICE DISHES, & VEGETARIAN DISHES!

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grille & wine lounge  
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**Open for Lunch!**  
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Come On Down For

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Szechuan Mandarin  
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**LUNCH SPECIALS**  
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FOOD TO GO

Banquet Room Available

Closed Mondays

*We also serve Brown Rice*

3059 Hopyard Road #G  
Hopyard Village @ Valley  
Pleasanton  
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"Open Since 1987"

**CELEBRATE THE LIVERMORE HARVEST**

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We're Celebrating the Livermore Valley Wine Harvest with our Great \$55 Dinner for Two. Dine at either PASTAS TRATTORIA or MAHALO GRILLE Thursday thru Sunday and receive:

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limited time only! \* thru Sept. 30th



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

Pleasanton's Favorite Italian



405 MAIN STREET  
Pleasanton, 94566  
(925) 417-2222

**Savory Delights of Northern China**

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

**DINNER:** Monday-Thursday 5:00-9:30  
Friday & Saturday 5:00-10:00  
Closed Sunday

**PRIVATE BANQUET ROOM TAKE-OUT**

30 West Angela St., Downtown Pleasanton  
925 484 4880 • www.pandapleasanton.com



**THE PANDA**

spices that make traditional northern Chinese cuisine such a delight. Open for lunch Monday through Friday, dinner Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday. A private banquet room is available. Visit [www.panda-pleasanton.com](http://www.panda-pleasanton.com).

**Dining Out**

**Continental**

**Barone's**

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

**Fusion**

**Oasis Grille**

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

**Italian**

**Fontina Ristorante**

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

**La Vite Ristorante**

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

**Girasole Grill**

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

**Pastas Trattoria**

405 Main St., Pleasanton, 417-2222. Pastas Trattoria has an elegant atmo-

sphere and a one-of-a-kind menu. We feature steaks, seafood and our famous pasta, plus a superb selection of spirits and fine wines. Live music will jazz up your Friday and Saturday evenings. The banquet facilities have wireless Internet for large parties, up to 70 guests.

**Japanese**

**Ume Sushi**

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

**Sato Japanese Cuisine**

3105-K Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 462-3131. Makoto Sato, Owner Operator has been serving traditional Japanese cuisine for over 25 years in Pleasanton. Enjoy the variety of our sushi bar and Japanese tempura and teriyaki sushi. We are open for lunch and dinner. We also do catering. Open Tuesday through Sunday and closed Monday.

**Mexican**

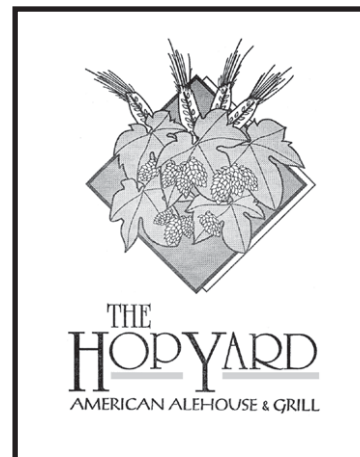
**Blue Agave Club**

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

**Pizza**

**Gay Nineties Pizza Co.**

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



**THE HOPYARD**  
AMERICAN ALE-HOUSE & GRILL

*Neighborhood Brewpub*

**30 BEERS ON TAP  
Huge Outdoor Patio!**



**Voted Best Place  
for an  
After-Work Drink**

**Pleasanton  
(925) 426-9600**

**3015-H Hopyard Road**

**[www.hopyard.com](http://www.hopyard.com)**

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• 3 New Specials  
Every Week  
• Seasonal Menu



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Monday & Tuesday**

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

**FONTINA**

**925.462.9299**

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

**BLUE AGAVE CLUB**



*"alta cocina mexicana"*

*"High-end"  
Mexican Cuisine*

*casual lunches  
fine dining  
award-winning  
margaritas*



**925.417.1224**

**625 Main St. • Downtown Pleasanton  
[www.blueagaveclub.com](http://www.blueagaveclub.com)**



**Cafe Esin**

LUNCH . DINNER

Hidden in a corner  
of San Ramon, this gem  
of a restaurant is garnering  
rave reviews for their fresh  
and rustic cuisine.

**925.314.0974**

**2416 San Ramon Valley Blvd.  
San Ramon**

*Voted Best desserts  
by Diablo Magazine  
4 years in a row*

**Patio Dining Now Available**

**Make This Sunday  
a Special Day**

10:00-2:00 Champagne Buffet Brunch  
Indoor and Patio Seating

**855 Main St. 925.846.8106**  
Check us out at: [www.pleasantonhotel.com](http://www.pleasantonhotel.com)



**GAY NINETIES PIZZA CO.**

*Italian Style Spaghetti & Ravioli*

Lunches • Dinners • Beers on Tap • Orders to Go

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

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



**Savory Delights of Northern China**

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

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Closed Sunday

**PRIVATE BANQUET ROOM TAKE-OUT**

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**THE PANDA**