

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Pat pushes for more affordable homes

County Supervisor Scott Haggerty and the county's Human Relations Commission have just awarded Pat Belding the Distinguished Citizen Award for 2006-07. And deservedly so. Belding is the city's leading advocate for affordable housing, a tough task in a city where the median income is well over \$100,000. We tend to think that there are no "poor people" in Pleasanton, and that's largely true in terms of those who are homeless. Still, Belding points out that most of us are not wealthy, with many actually falling close to or below the \$60,000 annual income level that now qualifies for affordable, subsidized housing. Belding has been campaigning for nearly two decades to encourage the city to zone land for homes and apartments the non-management workforce, our adult children and those with low-to-moderate incomes can afford.

Working with the Tri-Valley interfaith Poverty Forum, she's had some successes. She persuaded Ponderosa Homes and the city to revise the original plan for large market rate homes on the Busch Property to include 64 low-income units and 23 very low-income units in a 172-unit apartment complex. Archstone also agreed to place a number of its apartments in the affordable category in Hacienda Business Park. Earlier, the city's Promenade apartments on Case Avenue were built to provide a mix of market rate and low-to-moderate income subsidized apartments. However, her plan to allow several hundred affordable apartments for seniors on the Bernal property was scuttled when opponents won voter approval of measure V in 2002, although she's quick to point out that 40 percent supported her plan.

Now Belding is supporting Public Advocates, a San Francisco legal organization that will be in

court Oct. 26 in its suit against Pleasanton to provide more housing. This group wants the city to build its fair share of workforce and affordable housing to meet the demands of workers who don't make more than \$60,000 a year, an amount the county now considers eligible for subsidized affordable housing. With the approval of 51 multi-million-dollar homes on the Oak Grove site Tuesday, Belding fears the city is closing in on its voter-mandated 29,000 housing unit cap (it now has 27,500 in the ground or approved). Those who need less costly homes here will be out of luck unless the housing cap is changed, which Public Advocates wants considered.

But while we're used to seeing Belding at public hearings before the Housing Commission, Planning Commission or City Council, she's also a social activist in other projects that serve the poor and down-trodden. Working with other concerned members of the Catholic Community of Pleasanton, Belding is frequently seen at Santa Rita Jail where she visits with inmates to provide Bible study and prayer time, and mostly to listen to their problems and offer counsel. There are 15 in the group that go to Santa Rita almost every Saturday and the sheriff's office reports that many inmates asked for Belding, who they have told authorities has a good ear for listening and a warm, caring heart to help them find a better life. At other times, she's volunteering with Habitat for Humanity in renovating and building homes for the needy. A docent at the Oakland Museum for Arts, she specializes in classes on the California Indians and now teaches a course one night a week at Las Positas College on the life of native American. Information about affordable housing, Habitat for Humanity or her Las Positas College course, email at pbelding1@comcast.net. ■

About the Cover

Ready for its rededication Sunday, Pleasanton's downtown Veterans Memorial Building has just undergone a \$4.8-million renovation that's made it earthquake-safer with all new electrical, plumbing, heating and air-conditioning components needed by its 21st century tenants: the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, other veterans and a public that uses the facility year-round for everything from weddings to dances. But despite all of the improvements, it looks just as it did when built in 1933, which is what everyone wanted. Photo and cover design by Manuel Valenzuela.

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The Pleasanton Ghost Walk, A fundraiser for the Museum On Main, Sponsored by

The event takes place on **Friday, Oct. 12 & Sat. Oct. 13**. Guided tours leave the museum every half hour starting at 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. Reservations are a must. Visit 10 haunted business buildings in the downtown area and hear the stories from the "ghosts" who haunt them.

This is a very popular event and tickets sell out very quickly, so **call the Museum for reservations at 462-2766**.

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Friends Of Pleasanton Eastern Gateway Initiative

We must act now to stop the Pleasanton City Council from approving a bad plan for 124 acres of public property. This housing, entertainment, and shopping mega-complex includes **multiple four-story residential buildings next to an existing neighborhood of single family homes and construction of the 2nd largest ice-skating facility in the western U.S.**

Our **SLOW GROWTH** initiative seeks to promote much needed land for sports fields, parkland, open space, and a potential school site.

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An Impartial Analysis

"AN INITIATIVE ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PLEASANTON GENERAL PLAN TO ADD A NEW POLICY THAT CERTAIN UNDEVELOPED LAND (A) OWNED BY A PUBLIC AGENCY AS OF JANUARY 1, 2007, (B) EAST OF SANTA RITA ROAD, (C) WITHIN PLEASANTON'S URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY AND (D) LARGER THAN 25 ACRES SHALL BE DESIGNATED AS OPEN SPACE, PARK LAND AND/OR GREEN BELT AND PLEASANTON WILL NEITHER ALLOW NOR SUPPORT THE COMMERCIAL OR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH LAND"
- Pleasanton City Attorney

www.friendsofpleasanton.org FPPC No. 1298550

Streetwise

Q: Should California's electoral votes be split up as the GOP has made an effort to do?

Asked Downtown



Priscilla Hall

Midwife

I think it would put too many layers between wishes of the population and the decision-making that happens. You would tend to lose some of the impact of the population's wishes on the decision-making process.

Steve Tarrow

Finance Director

I agree with the proposed idea. California is by far the most populous state in the union and the majority would agree, the most diverse. With an enormous amount of Democrats in the southern part of the state, within the current format, the voice of GOP mostly goes unheard. The proposed format should correct for this disparity and make California a key decision-maker. Next on the ballot, split California into two states.



Leslie Schiager

Retired Receptionist

I don't know that much about it but from the headlines I have read in the paper it appears to favor the Republicans and is therefore not bi-partisan. I don't really understand the whole electoral system and probably never will.

Sandra Barsanti

Retired

I am not entirely informed on this issue but if all of the states were involved in running their election the same way I might approve. At this point I would not support the idea. I have always supported the idea of "popular vote" elections.



Dennis Grotrian

Professor

There is a good chance the proposal may be unconstitutional. When you read the background of the drafters notes in the Constitution when they established the electoral college, the concept was that all votes went to the majority candidate. It would extend and draw out elections and confuse issues. Electoral college issues would be clouded based on regionality.

Have a Streetwise question? E-mail: editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

Compiled by Cybele Ryan

Newsfront

News Digest

Tom Del Beccaro to speak

Tom Del Beccaro, vice chair of the California Republican Party, will be the guest speaker at the Oct. 11 dinner meeting of the Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated, at 6:30 p.m. La Vite Ristorante, 3037 Hopyard Road. Del Beccaro was elected vice chair in February and also serves as the chairman of the Contra Costa County Republican Party. New members and visitors are welcome. Dinner is \$26 for members and \$30 for nonmembers. Advance reservations are required. Call 426-1995 by Oct. 7.

Toast to educational partnerships

Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation hosts the Bon Appetit—Toasts and Tastes of Fall event benefiting Pleasanton public schools. The cocktail party features 16 culinary teams, each starring a corporate/community sponsor, a school district principal and a local chef. Each team will offer a signature hors d'oeuvre or dessert in the competition for the \$500 cash prize. It also includes live jazz, auctions and a martini bar. Tickets for the Oct. 13 event at the CarrAmerica Conference Center are \$55 and can be purchased by calling 846-5620 or visiting www.ppie.org.

Draeger's opens in nearby shopping center

Expanding its grocery stores throughout the Bay Area, Draeger's comes to Blackhawk. Grand opening events include an invitation-only private preview Oct. 11 that will benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, as will a portion of the weekend's proceeds. More grand opening festivities begin Oct. 12 and run through Oct. 14. For a schedule and more information, visit www.draegers.com.

Correction

The hours of operation for Worthington Gallery West, 739 J Main St., listed on page 52 in our 2007-08 InfoPleasanton guide and published Sept. 14, were incorrect. Worthington Gallery West is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Fridays from noon to 8 p.m. and other times by appointment.

The Weekly desires to correct all significant errors. To request a correction, call the editor at (925) 600-0840 or e-mail: editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

Council OKs homes atop Kottinger Hills—Again!

4-1 vote, referendum threatens mirror 1992 action

by Jeb Bing

Ending four years of community meetings, public hearings and countless land use, geotechnical and architectural studies, the City Council voted 4-1 Tuesday to allow the construction of 51 super-large estate homes

in Kottinger Hills in exchange for the gift of nearly 500 acres of public open space, hiking and equestrian trails and other amenities.

The vote, with Councilwoman Cindy McGovern the lone opponent, came late at night after three hours of presentations and public comments on the project, known as Oak Grove. The homes will be built on 77 acres of a 562-acre site at the end of Hearst Drive in Kottinger Ranch. The property is owned by Jennifer,

Frederic and Kevin Lin, who live elsewhere, but are major property owners and developers throughout the region.

The vote Tuesday was a bit of déjà vu. The first project proposed by the Lin family called for 86 homes on the hilltop acreage, to be built around an 18-hole championship golf course. The City Council, with then-Mayor Ken Mercer

(continued on page 7)

PMS welcomes rare visitors from North Korea

Sport expected to improve relations on martial arts goodwill tour

Pleasanton will welcome visitors from North Korea next week, an unprecedented event considering the U.S.'s broken relationship with the foreign country.

The North Korean National Taekwondo Demonstration Team, a non-political delegation, will be visiting the Bay Area to promote peace and friendship with the United States. The tour is sponsored by the USA Taekwondo Martial Arts Commission.

On Sunday, the tour will travel to Pleasanton Middle School from 3 to 5 p.m. The tour will include a high-powered martial arts demonstration by the traveling team as well as cultural performances and martial arts demonstrations from local organizations and schools. There will also be a banquet honoring the visitors.

"With such different cultures between North Korea and the United States, this event is about a heart-to-heart connection."

—Dr. Tae Yun Kim, chairman and CEO of Silicon Valley-based company Lighthouse Worldwide Solutions

"With such different cultures between North Korea and the United States, this event is about a heart-to-heart connection," said Dr. Tae Yun Kim, chairman and CEO of Silicon Valley-based company Lighthouse Worldwide Solutions, and who is serving as chair for the Bay Area segment of the tour. "We are promoting unity and harmony in the world, among different cultures and in support of the reunification of the Koreans—a unified Korea, a bridge between cultures, a butterfly of peace, a circle of unity, tied together with the warrior spirit of a martial arts black belt. One Korea, one Taekwondo, one world, with 'peace' and 'unity' in Korean characters on each end of the belt."

The unification of North and South Korea has been a major focus for Korean groups and organizations across the world for years. This week, South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun crossed the country's northern border and met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il in

(continued on page 10)



These shooters were among 350 who participated in the HomeAid trap shoot event held at the Livermore-Pleasanton Rod & Gun Club supporting the construction of local homeless shelters.

Trap shoot raises money for local homeless shelters

\$250,000 raised at Livermore-Pleasanton Rod & Gun Club

With each popping sound at the Livermore-Pleasanton Rod & Gun Club gun range last week—and there were many—funds were being raised for area homeless shelters.

The sixth annual HomeAid Trap Shoot, held Sept. 27, was attended by hundreds from home-building companies such as Ponderosa, Standard Pacific and Pulte Homes.

The event was created six years ago by HomeAid Northern California, a nonprofit and the charitable arm of the Home Builders

Association of Northern California.

HomeAid Executive Director Julie O'Connor said a casual business gathering at the gun range in Livermore is what led to the annual trap shoot competition.

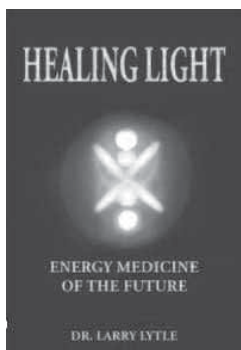
A HomeAid board member who took a client to the gun club as a client appreciation discovered that the club could be the perfect stage for a fundraiser.

"He realized that not only was the club under-

(continued on page 10)

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Teen killed in I-680 crash near Sunol Blvd.

Speeding the alleged cause in accident, investigation ongoing over 14-year-old San Leandro girl's death

by Janet Pelletier and Emily Atwood

An early morning crash on Interstate 680 last Friday, just south of Bernal Avenue, claimed the life of a 14-year-old girl.

According to the CHP, a 2003 Ford Taurus with five passengers struck the center divide at 2:48 a.m. It was then struck a second time by a 2000 Dodge Dakota going approximately 70-75 mph, which shortly after was struck by a 2001 pickup truck. CHP said the timing of these crashes was still under investigation.

The Alameda County Coroner's Office identified the girl who died as Rachel Vargas of San Leandro. The other passengers were male, three 19-year-olds and a 16-year-old.

Vargas was riding in the middle of the back seat, according to Officer Steve Creel of the California Highway Patrol.

The car's 19-year-old driver, Drori Levi of San Leandro, was reportedly speeding and lost control when the collision occurred, Creel said. After the crash, three passengers were able to exit the vehicle and flee to the center divide. A fourth passenger was exiting and Vargas was seated as the Dodge truck hit, crushing the Taurus back up against the center divide. The exiting passenger flew over on the hood of the Taurus and hit his head on the windshield. Vargas sustained fatal injuries. It was unknown at this time if she was wearing a seatbelt.

Creel said he was unaware of any family relationship between the passengers and that they had no particular departure or destination.

There were no other reported injuries and the investigation is expected to be finished in about a month. ■

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Oak Grove

(continued from page 5)

in charge, voted 3-2 in favor of the project. Homeowners in the newly-built Kottinger Ranch, also developed by the Lins, were outraged and garnered support from across Pleasanton to reverse the council's approval in a referendum at the ballot box in 1993. By then, Ben Tarver had been elected mayor with Tom Pico and Becky Dennis also elected to the council. They also opposed the project and lobbied heavily in favor of the referendum.

At last Tuesday's public hearing, several Kottinger Ranch homeowners denounced the 51-home project and adjacent ridgeland where the city will install public parking, lights, restrooms and other trail-head facilities. They said the homes and public park visitors could add more than 600 car-trips per day on Hearst Drive, which has been a dead-end, barricaded street since Kottinger Ranch was built.

Other complained that the large size of the homes would create sight obstructions to the views they enjoy of the Kottinger Hills and other ridgeland.

"My home is 3,950 square feet," said Bob Grove of the nearby, gated Grey Eagle community. "These homes would be three times as big. The visual representations (by the developer) are grossly understated."

Carla Brown, vice president of the Kottinger Ranch Homeowners Association, said she and three other board members oppose the project even though board president Bing Hadley told the council that the HOA favors it.

"We need more information," Brown said. We want to consult with an attorney on the impact this will have. The estimated 612 additional car trips a day that this project

will bring do not preserve the character of our neighborhood."

Hadley said Brown and others from Kottinger Ranch who spoke against the project Tuesday night—about 15 in all—were the vocal minority.

"I can confidently say that a majority of homeowners believe that the compromised path we went down is the right thing to do."

Another Kottinger Ranch board member, Mike Regan, said that while he would be happy to see no homes built in the hills, the compromise worked out with the developers to reduce the original 98 homes planned to 51 units, an arrangement "that benefits all of us."

"This is an opportunity to put a border and preserve at the south end of Pleasanton," he said. "It's a chance for an easement in perpetuity. This will be the end of any development here."

Councilman Matt Sullivan, who led the council's wrap up discussion Tuesday and recommended approval of the project, said the Lin family had the right to develop their property on the basis of the 1996 General Plan, which allowed 98 homes on the 562 acres.

"We here on this council today inherited that General Plan," Sullivan explained. "Frankly, had I been on the City Council then, I would not have voted for it."

When the Lins submitted their plan for a 98-home development, Sullivan said he initiated meetings with the neighborhood and others to see if any compromises could be worked out. At the same time, Mayor Jennifer Hosterman held meetings with Attorney Marty Inderbitzen and investor James Tong of Pleasanton to gain their support in persuading the Lins to reduce the number of homes being planned.

(continued on page 8)

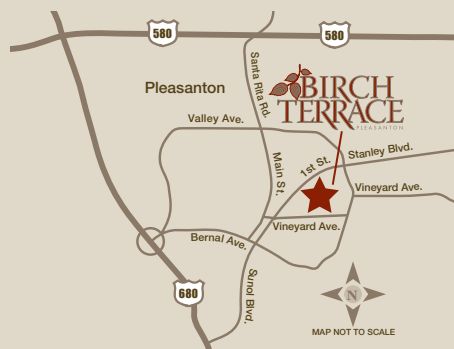
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Newsfront

Oak Grove

(continued from page 7)

All this occurred two years ago when Sullivan and Hosterman also began negotiations with land owners, developers and public interest groups in their pursuit of a 2,000-acre swath of publicly-owned open space stretching from the Callippe Preserve Golf Course east to Shadow Cliffs Regional Park.

The meetings paid off with the Lins agreeing to reduce the number of homes to 51 on 77 acres, and donating the rest of the land to the city of Pleasanton.

"I know not everybody has what they want, but if you put it all together you have a good project," Sullivan told those in the audience Tuesday. "It also opens the door to do a lot more for the southeast hills."

Besides their comments on the Oak Grove proposal, some Kottinger Ranch homeowners told stories about nighttime rowdiness, pot smoking and campfires involving people they said were "outsiders," "unattractive non-native people" and "teenagers."

"My main concern is safety," said Carolyn Newton. "This is a very dry area; the roads (that are planned) will be remote and difficult to reach. With all of the influence of the kinds of people who use these areas—drunks, the campfire thing—I'm concerned about that."



Nan Leuschel

This is a view from Oak Grove of Kottinger Ranch.

Others said cars filled with young people often park along Hearst Drive and Benedict Court and then walk around barriers into Kottinger Hills. On July 4, some lit firecrackers and left open campfires burning. They asked for extra police patrols once the hills are converted to public areas that would be more readily accessible.

As part of the development

agreement, city officials said they will install a gate to the trailhead facilities and parking area that will be locked at dusk.

Soil preparation and initial lot grading for the home sites are expected to start next spring. By agreement, the developers will build the trailhead, trails and all public facilities by the time the fifth home is sold and constructed. ■

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Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Chlorine spill causes traffic snarl

If you were traveling to work on either interstates 580 or 680 Wednesday morning, you were probably dealing with the fallout from an early morning accident that left chlorine on the roadway and snarled traffic for miles.

At about 7:40 a.m., a white Ford Ranger pickup truck traveling on 680, just north of the 580 interchange in Dublin, overturned on its side. The truck was carrying pool supplies including buckets of chlorine, which spilled on the asphalt and caused concern of a possible explosion or hazardous situation. A Sig Alert was issued for westbound 580 to northbound 680 just minutes after the accident and the California Highway Patrol was considering it a “long closure.” CHP reported that witnesses saw smoke coming from the yellow plastic containers. Hazardous materials crews removed the containers from the roadway.

Lanes of traffic were reopened nearly four hours later, but not before Pleasanton police spent most of the morning diverting drivers from 680 at Hopyard Road to city streets to avoid the backup. Evidence of drivers using arterial streets was present along Main Street in the downtown and other major thoroughfares across town.

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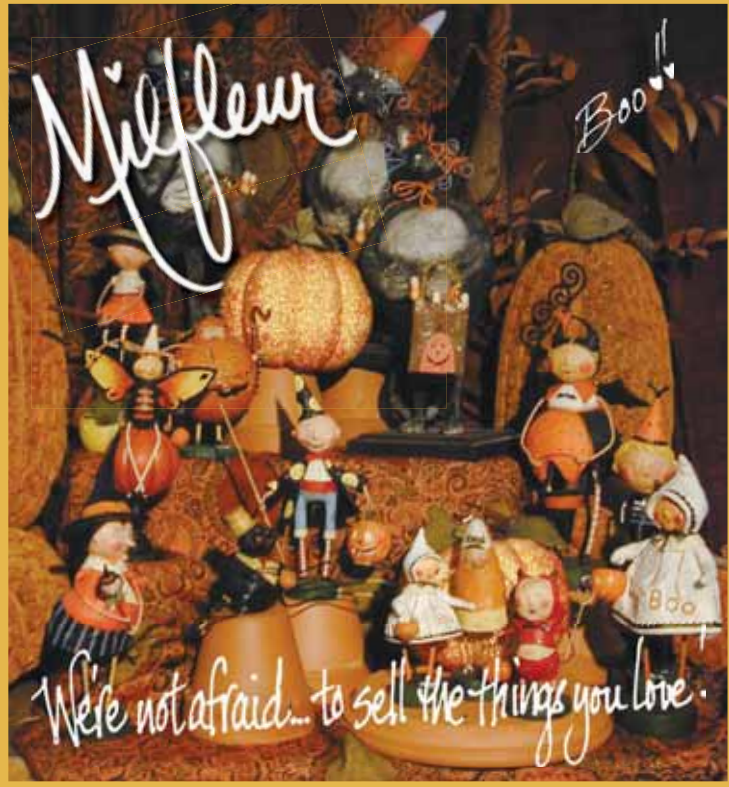
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Newsfront

North Korea

(continued from page 5)

Pyongyang, North Korea to begin the second summit between the two countries since the peninsula's division after World War II, according to the Associated Press.

Grandmaster Woo Jin Jun, national chair and Taekwondo Times magazine publisher said the event is not only for martial artists, but for all Americans.

"We believe that this visit will help to dispel many of the rumors and stereotypes that people have about North Koreans," said event coordinator and Pleasanton resident Alan Sim.

The event will be held in Pleasanton Middle School's gymnasium, 5001 Case Ave. The public is invited to attend and tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for children under 12 and free for children under 5. There will be no ticket sales at the door, so tickets must be purchased in advance. A maximum of 800 tickets will be sold.

For information, visit www.usnktkd.com. For tickets, call Sarah Alex at 408-605-6450.

—Janet Pelletier

Trap shoot

(continued from page 5)

utilized but it afforded an opportunity for friendly competition," O'Connor said. "They really enjoyed shooting clay pigeons and they recognized that a lot of the subcontractors in the field actually are hunters and not so much golfers, so that this type of event would resonate with them (as opposed to a golf tournament fundraiser). So he broached the subject with our board to give it a shot, literally, and we didn't know how it would turn out the first year but it went really well and every year since then, it's gotten better.

In total, 350 people from various homebuilders participated in the trap shoot, which they paid money for as a sponsorship. The event featured teams who took turns shooting at orange plastic disks that were launched in the air.

The money raised from last week's event was expected to total \$250,000, bringing the total amount that HomeAid has raised since the fundraiser started to more than \$1 million.

Funds go toward building transitional housing for emergency, permanent and transitional homeless individuals and families, O'Connor said.

"Mostly we focus on transitional shelters which is typically six month to two years with a care provider who has programs in place to give them the skills they need to get back on track and also address why they became homeless in the first place," O'Connor said. "Our flagship partnership has been with Shepherd's Gate in Livermore where we did two projects for them: we added one residence hall which we dedicated in 2004 and before that we did five two-bedroom cottages for women, which was kind of an extension of their campus allowing them semi-independent living before they go out into the world." ■

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Do you have an escape plan?

Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department hosts activities in observance of Fire Prevention Week

by Janet Pelletier

A number of activities and events are scheduled beginning this weekend and lasting through next week to educate residents about the importance of having an escape plan in the event of a fire.

"Many people don't realize that they are at greater danger from fire at home than anywhere else," Fire Chief Bill Cody said. "Fortunately, there are many things residents can do to make their homes safer."

"This year, we'll be focusing on escape plans," he continued. "Your ability to get out depends on an advanced warning from smoke alarms and advance planning. It's not enough to have a home fire escape plan. To escape safely, you've got to make sure that everyone in the home has practiced the plan."

An open house, appearance at the farmers' market and book reading with a firefighter are among the activities planned to showcase the necessity of having an escape plan in place.

From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. this Saturday and next Saturday, residents can see an "escaping a

fire" simulation at the Pleasanton Farmers' Market. Members of the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department will demonstrate and simulate an escape through a smoke-filled environment using a fire safety trailer. Information on fire safety and disaster preparedness will be provided. From 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 10, the fire department will open its doors for an open house. Residents can visit any fire station in town for a tour, including the department's headquarters (Station No. 1) at 3560 Nevada St.; Station No. 2 at 6300 Stoneridge Mall Road; Station No. 3 at 3200 Santa Rita Road; Station No. 4 at 1600 Oak Vista Parkway and Station No. 5 at 1200 Machado Place.

And from 10 a.m. to noon, people can visit the Pleasanton Library, 200 Old Bernal Ave., for story time with a firefighter. A fire truck will also be on display.

The events coincide with Fire Prevention Week, sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association. It's been sponsored for 85 years and is proclaimed by

(continued on page 12)



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Contact the PAMF Community Health Resource Center at
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Tri-Valley Haven hosts annual 5K Pace for Peace

*Walk/run to benefit homeless, victims
of domestic violence and sexual assault*

On Saturday morning, hundreds will hit the pavement, walking or running in support of the homeless, victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Tri-Valley Haven is hosting Pace for Peace, an annual 5K walk/run, in Livermore.

The event starts at 9:30 a.m. outside the nonprofit organizations community building, 3663 Pacific Ave. Registration begins at 9 a.m. Participants who bring \$25 in pledges will receive a free commemorative t-shirt with a design by a local student artist, Taylor Lewis of Granada High.

Vicki Thompson of Tri-Valley

Haven said it's not too late to participate in the run/walk. In fact, people are welcome to show up on the morning of the event, she said.

A family fair will follow the Pace for Peace from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., featuring children's karaoke, crafts and other activities, a barbecue and a Clothesline Project display and community information booths.

Proceeds from the event benefit the shelter and help fund operating costs such as utilities, the Web site and the crisis phone line.

—Janet Pelletier

The search for the malted falcon

"It was tall, dark, and chocolatey—the stuff dreams are made of. It was the Malted Falcon." Bruce Hale, author of the popular noir-lite Chet Gecko mystery

series for children, will entertain children with his humorous take on hard-boiled detective work as related by Chet Gecko, the "crime-fighting private eye and lizard of mystery". The children's event will be held at 7 p.m. Oct. 9 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave.

Escape plan

(continued from page 11)

the president of the United States each year. This year's theme was selected to teach families and kids how to develop and practice an escape plan.

As part of the activities planned, families and children are encouraged to develop a plan and submit theirs to any of the aforementioned events. Participation qualifies people to win a dinner at a fire station hosted by the fire chief, fire marshal and firefighters. One winner

will be selected for the city of Pleasanton and one for the city of Livermore. Blank Fire Escape Plan entry forms are available at www.lpfire.org.

According to the fire department, most fire deaths occur in single family homes. It's recommended that residents practice an escape plan twice a year to avoid being trapped in the home during a fire. Residents are also encouraged to ensure that smoke alarms are in every level of a home and are tested regularly. According to the fire department, smoke alarms should be replaced with a new unit after 10 years. ■

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Take Us Along



A bundle with the Weekly

Does reading the paper keep you warm? It seems to be working for the Simone family, who are taking in the articles from 10,000 feet above sea level in Jackson Hole, Wyo.



A wedding, vacation and the Weekly

Kathy Westernoff took some time after her daughter's wedding on Kauai to browse the pages of the Weekly on scenic Poipu Beach. Westernoff's daughter is a firefighter and her husband a police officer. And Kathy adds she's a "happy mama."



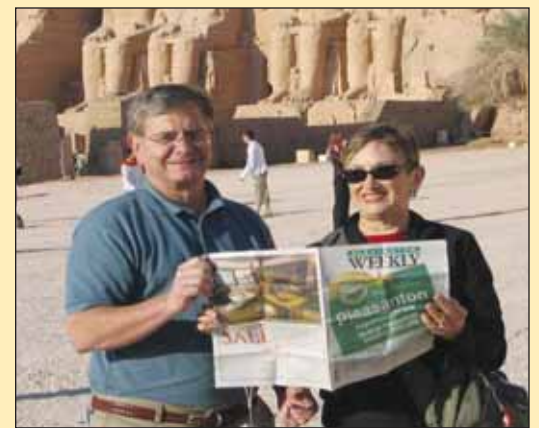
No match for the Weekly

Pleasanton resident Caitlin MacDonald shared her love of the Weekly with her fellow teammates from Dartmouth University's women's soccer team at the Manchester United game in Manchester, England. The women were there during their international spring break.



Movie madness

The Weekly was a lucky hang-on when Suzanne Tart, Linda Behers and Peggy Gill ventured to the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah. Here they are pictured in front of the historic Egyptian Theater on Main Street, which Behers points out has the same flavor as Pleasanton's downtown. The ladies saw an Irish film called "Once."



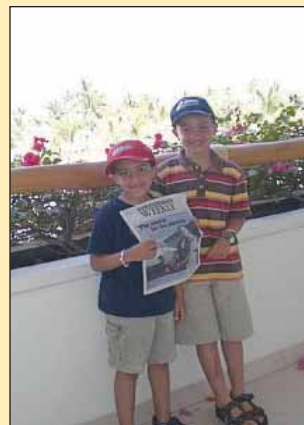
Walk like an Egyptian

On Tom and Sonya Grudkowski's recent trip to Egypt, they paused for a picture with the Weekly at the Temple at Abu Simbel. Also during their vacation, they visited the Mosque of Mohamed Ali in Cairo.



Hola from Nuevo Vallarta!

The Weekly got a suntan when the Wilson family took the paper along with them on their trip to Nuevo Vallarta, just outside of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Brothers Reyhan, 7, and Noah, 5, jet skied, boogie boarded and swam, as well as catching up on the latest news in the Weekly.



From the shores of San Diego

Jim, Rachel and Jimmy Ramsell take a seat on a seawall at Pacific Beach in San Diego to hear the waves crashing as they read the Weekly.



Where's Waldo—er, the Weekly?

A large group of ladies from the Catholic Community of Pleasanton Parish enjoy the San Domiano Retreat Facility in Danville. Charissa McDonald reports that the trip was a "time for prayer, reflection and reading the Pleasanton Weekly."



The presidential Weekly

Michael Smith, Rachel Hess and Jacob Hess take the Weekly with them to Mt. Vernon, where President George Washington used to live near Alexandria, Va.

Ahoy Weekly

Bob and Freddie O'Neill spend some time reading the Weekly while on a cruise to Acapulco, Mexico. The couple reports "it was fun having our friend the Pleasanton Weekly with us."

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Opinion

Editorial

Mayor right in concern over global warming

Just back from a global warming leadership conference at Robert Redford's Sundance (Utah) Village, Mayor Jennifer Hosterman is all fired up over opportunities she sees for intensifying Pleasanton's commitment to green building, energy efficiency and water conservation. The conference was the third annual gathering of U.S. mayors who are active in the U.S. Conference of Mayors, which Hosterman attends. It was a bipartisan group of some 40 mayors representing a diverse range of communities, and took place as local, state and federal officials are becoming increasingly concerned about record-breaking heat and devastating floods in many parts of the country that are being blamed on climate change.

Tuesday, as part of the approval of 51 new estate homes on the Kottinger Hills, Hosterman wanted stiff requirements imposed on future buyers to restrict their water and energy consumption and greenhouse emissions. She sees this development—called Oak Grove—with its multi-million-dollar homes as a prototype for major environmental changes she would like to make part of the city's new General Plan now being drafted and any future home and business building regulations. To his credit, Councilman Matt Sullivan, an outspoken environmental advocate who is pressing for energy and water conservation elements to be part of the new General Plan, got the mayor and other council members to hold off on specialized Oak Grove requirements until other committees and commission and city staff have had time to study the various options.

Even so, Hosterman has a point. There's increasing concern worldwide about climate change and its implications. At Sundance, speakers from government, universities and the scientific community reported that the earth's temperature already has warmed between 1 and 1-1/2 degrees Celsius. Most species and humans can survive comfortably if greenhouse gas emissions—which are believed to be the cause of global warming—increase from the present 385 parts per million up to as high as 445ppm, which would raised temperatures around the world on average about 3 degrees Celsius. But go much higher and changes could occur to make life much more uncomfortable. According to Hosterman, the problem with these forecasts is that global warming is creeping up on us much faster than scientists predicted, with glaciers melting at a worrisome pace that could threaten coastal cities much before 2050, the benchmark year the Sundance scientists said has been a target for making international changes to reverse the warming process.

Hosterman knows that as the mayor of a city with a population of 67,000, she can't do much to stop global warming. But Robert Redford, who has made it is mission to enlist the support of hundreds of mayors like Hosterman in this worldwide effort can reduce the carbon footprints in their own community—as Hosterman tried to do Tuesday in the Oak Grove development—they could have an impact. So look for Hosterman to push for local programs that would make solar a viable option for homeowners, water-saving devices and landscaping a citywide conservation goal and building codes that would do away with wood-burning fireplaces and mandate thermal pane windows on new homes and renovations. She also wants Pleasanton to chime in on national campaigns that can help us all breathe easier and feel better. Right now there are 40 coal-fired power plants in the U.S. with another 151 being planned. Whether we believe that global warming is fact or fantasy, coal burning along with other harmful emissions hurts us all, whether the emissions drift our way or affect us where we travel. Hosterman is on the right track in her effort to improve the quality of life, not just for Pleasanton but for the world as a whole. We share her passion.

*The problem with
these forecasts is
that global warming
is creeping up on
us much faster than
scientists predicted,
with glaciers melting
at a worrisome pace.*

Letters

More dog parks needed for forward progress

Dear Editor,

This letter is being transcribed
by a human for all of us dogs in
Pleasanton:

Most of us dogs don't recognize
each other because we don't get
out very much, and when we do
there is only one dog park where
we can really socialize...touch
noses and smell each other.

Many of us get taken out by our
slow walking masters, holding us
back with collar and leash. Most
dogs stay at home and bark at
strangers, and too many stay inside
human smelling houses. We need a
break—like fresh air.

Every day, Officer Roy Ficken
and his partners look out for us,
even taking us home if we have a
license to be out on the street. He
told us that there are 3,132 official-
ly tagged tail wagging dogs in Pee
Town, but there are probably just
as many that are not law abiding.
He's heard that the national aver-
age home has 2.5 dogs, so when
Pleasanton reaches 29,000 homes
and apartments, we could possibly
have 72,500 hounds—now that is
something to yap about.

Whether we yap, holler, bark or
howl, one dog park just isn't fair.
We heard one Parks & Recreation
commissioner suggest at least four
dog parks be built. Some dogs have
growled about moving out. If we
were more free and better organized
we would run, not walk, down to
the City Council meeting and really
yap, bark and holler for our cause.

In closing, we dogs suggest a leg
up on a new park, so you humans
must not sign any of those peti-
tions against progress (i.e. regard-
ing Staples Ranch).

*Howard Neely
Pleasanton*

Take a look for yourself

Dear Editor,

There has been a lot of discus-
sion concerning the open space/
green belt initiative proposed by
a group of citizens in Pleasanton.
Loss of control and the associated
tax revenue have been hot topics of
discussion. Proponents of the ini-
tiative want people to believe that
the Staples Ranch property is the
city's last piece of unspoiled land.

While it is true that open space
is becoming a luxury, one needs
to examine the property to deter-
mine exactly what is has to offer.
This approximately 124-acre parcel
south of I-580 is made up of brush
covered open space dotted with
berms and mostly void of trees. The
few trees that do exist are tightly
clustered together in one small
area. The "Chain of Lakes" some
refer to is nothing more than water
retention ponds for local concrete

(continued on page 15)

Talking Points

by Gina Channell-Allen



E-tiquette: Flaming, trolls, spam not allowed

We all use the PleasantonWeekly.com Town Square forums for the same reasons—to share information, ask questions, discuss current events, voice our opinion.

So why can't we be friends?

Some posts recently have been dripping in sarcasm, accusatory and downright rude. At least one post was edited because someone was "called out" by name with accusations that were not substantiated.

There aren't many rules when it comes to online posts, because we don't want to stymie the creative forces at work. But there are a few. The steadfast rules are that we will unabashedly remove posts that contain potentially libelous statements, obscene, explicit, or racist language and personal attacks, insults or threats. We also will not tolerate "spam" (product promotions or advertisements); "trolls" (someone who posts comments to intentionally upset or offend other users, which leads to "flaming"); information taken from another source without permission; or private information on private citizens published without consent. And we might get the pruning shears out for comments unrelated to the topic of the forum.

Please keep in mind that brevity and clarity are beautiful. Don't

write an essay; most readers won't get past the first sentence. And write in clear English. Dazzle us with your ideas and opinions, and accompanying support for such. Time is a valuable commodity—we would prefer to spend it thinking about your statement, not translating it. And avoid using all capital letters as it implies you're shouting at the reader. (This is also a handy tip for writing emails.)

Also, silence implies agreement. There is no need to add "I agree." This "noise" doesn't add anything except length.

The most important rule, however, is the golden rule. Do unto others, yada, yada, yada. Play nice! Remember that just because you don't agree with a thought doesn't mean it has no value. Don't be dismissive or rude. And if you feel you must use sarcasm, use it sparingly. Sarcastic remarks usually sound more clever to the writer than to his or her audience.

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.

Letters

(continued from page 14)

producers. Their angular shape and steep slopes hardly bring to mind the tranquil setting most of us think of when describing a lake. The City of Pleasanton has a beautiful plan for this property that includes all-weather lighted sports fields, lighted tennis courts, lawn bowling and a dog park. The plan also includes the development of senior housing and an ice skating facility. If the city is not successful with the annexation of this land, then these amenities will be nothing more than a dream. If you do not believe me then I ask you to please drive out to the property and take a look for yourself. If you agree with my assessment, then please politely decline when approached by a petitioner to sign the open space/green belt initiative. Pleasanton's loss will be another city's gain.

*Rich Wilcox
Pleasanton*

Check out
Town Square
An online forum to
Discuss Community Issues
Ask for advice
Rate a movie
Review a restaurant and more

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Bernadette Peters in Concert
Gala Fundraising Benefit
Saturday, October 6, 8pm

Bringing Art to Life
Sunday, October 7, 2pm
Valley Dance Theatre

Shaolin Warriors
Tuesday, October 9, 7:30pm
Legendary Masters of Kung-Fu

Doc Watson & David Holt
Wednesday, October 10, 8pm
World's Most Accomplished Flat-Picker

The Brandenburg Concertos
Thursday, October 11, 8pm
Pacific Chamber Symphony

Premium Blend
Friday, October 12, 6pm and 8:30pm
Bay Area Dance Company

**All the World's a Stage:
The Bard, Baritones and Bassoons!**
Saturday, October 13, 8pm
*Livermore-Amador Symphony,
Livermore Valley Opera &
Shakespeare's Associates*

La Boheme
October 20, 26, 27, 8pm
October 21 & 28, 2pm
Livermore Valley Opera

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A PLACE FOR VETERANS

\$4.5-MILLION VETS HALL TO BE DEDICATED SUNDAY

BY ELIZABETH CAMPOS RAJS

TO THE CASUAL OBSERVER, THE HISTORIC VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING ON MAIN STREET LOOKS MUCH THE SAME AS IT ALWAYS DID—ONLY BRIGHTER AND SHINIER. AND THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT EVERYONE INVOLVED IN THE YEAR-LONG RENOVATION PROJECT HOPED TO ACCOMPLISH. RESTORING THE 1933 BUILDING'S OUTWARD APPEARANCE, WHILE MODERNIZING ITS ANTIQUATED INFRASTRUCTURE, WAS THE GOAL OF THE JUST-COMPLETED \$4.8-MILLION RENOVATION AT 301 MAIN ST.

"The building is 75 years old," said Eileen Morley Hofstadt, the city's community services manager, who is overseeing the project. "Building codes have changed dramatically in that time. There wasn't air conditioning, which made it very uncomfortable in the summer. The electrical and plumbing were all vintage '32. We needed to make it safer and more comfortable, and we wanted to bring the building back to its original luster."

The new coat of paint and polished fixtures belie the true changes of the massive construction project. Now, the vintage building boasts all new electrical and plumbing, seismically strengthened walls and ceiling, a fire sprinkler system, an air conditioning and heating system, additional bathrooms, and a fully modernized catering kitchen. Also, ramps have been added to the front and side entrances to the building to make it accessible for people in wheelchairs.

For a closer look at the newly improved building, Pleasanton residents are invited to attend the city's rededication ceremony at 1 p.m. this Sunday, Oct. 7. The free, public event will celebrate the newly restored building with presentations by members of the American Legion Post 237, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6298, and city officials, including Mayor Jennifer Hosterman. In addition to music by the Travis Brass Quintet U.S. Air Force Band of the Golden West, the ceremony will also pay tribute to those who have and are serving in the armed forces.

"I hope Pleasanton comes out for this," Hofstadt said. "It is such an opportunity to come together and celebrate this building and our veterans as a community."

Residents should note that Main Street will be closed from Abbie Street to the Downtown Centre just south of Old Bernal Avenue and Old Bernal will be closed between Main Street and Peters Avenue beginning at 7 p.m. tomorrow through 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 7 to accommodate the ceremony.

Following the ceremony, the building will be open for tours until 5 p.m. Additionally, the city is hosting

a USO-themed Gala Dance on Saturday, Oct. 13. In a nod to the building's original opening year, tickets are \$19.33 per couple and are available in the Parks and Community Services office at 200 Old Bernal Ave.

"We'll have a new floor, a new building and a USO Hornet band," Hofstadt said. "We're encouraging people to wear period costumes, which could really be anything since the USO is still in existence."



Having just installed the sculpture of an Army veteran wearing a Veterans of Foreign Wars cap in front of the Veterans Memorial Building, these four join him on the rustic mahogany granite bench provided by Bob Mattos (far right in photo) of Bras & Mattos Monument Co. of Hayward. Others in photo are (from left) Bob Elliott, Chuck Ray (sitting on bench) and Bobby Mattos.

When the Veterans Memorial Building first opened in 1933, it was hailed as "one of the most up-to-date structures of its kind in the state," according to a newspaper article from that time. The building was one of 10 in Alameda County designed by architect Henry H. Meyers and constructed for \$38,000, Hofstadt noted.

Pleasanton native Tony Cavestri, 83, remembers when the building was constructed and attended the original dedication ceremony in 1933 with his father, who was a member of Pleasanton's American Legion Post 237. His dad was also the building's first custodian and Cavestri spent countless hours of his youth helping his dad clean the building, mow the lawn and wash dishes.

When his father passed away in 1952, the county asked Cavestri to take over temporarily until a replacement could be found. Cavestri retained his title as part-time "janitor-custodian-building engineer" for the next 37 years, finally relinquishing his role in 1989.

"My kids used to call it my second home," Cavestri said.

Cavestri, who served in the Air Force during World War II and is a lifetime member of the American Legion and a charter member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars post, will lead the Pledge of Allegiance at the rededication ceremony on Sunday. He is one of only five remaining charter members of the VFW post, he noted.

The American Legion has occupied the building since it opened, and the VFW post has been there since it formed in 1946.

The city began using the building in 1969, took over managing it in 1979 and finally purchased it for \$1 from the county in 1997. The effort to renovate the Veterans Hall has been underway since 2000.

"When we took over the building from the county, we received a lot of original documents," Hofstadt said.

That included the original building specifications, which are hand-typed on vellum, maintenance records that are hand-recorded in pencil, as well as boxes



Tony Cavestri, 83, touches the statue of an Army veteran who served in WWII and is a charter member of the building with his father.

of other historic documents in the building's office.

"I love that we have these documents," Hofstadt said. The Veterans Hall, which houses about 220 people, is one of the largest in Pleasanton, Hofstadt said. The building is already booked through the end of the year. Reservations are taken by phone from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday through Friday. An appointment time may be made by calling 5340.



Left: This bronze sculpture of an elderly Army veteran rests on a rustic mahogany granite bench in front of the newly-renovated Veterans Memorial Building. The sculpture, titled "Poppies," is the work of W. Stanley Proctor, an Arizona artist, and was donated to the building by Nancy and Gray Harrington of Pleasanton. The bench, made from the same South Dakota granite as the four presidential figures at Mt. Rushmore, was provided by Bras & Mattos Monument Co. of Hayward.



Jeb Bing

Top: Newly renovated and refurbished stage at Veterans Memorial Building looks just as it did when veterans held the original dedication ceremony and dance back in 1933. It will be used again for a band playing for a USO-themed Gala Dance next Saturday, Oct. 13, to celebrate the completion of the \$4.8-million renovation project.



Jeb Bing

The Veterans Memorial Building sign in front of the newly-renovated structure. Cavestri, member of both the American Legion and VFW, attended the original dedication ceremony with his father, now deceased, in 1933.

ts Hofstadt now has in her
e still," she said.
h has a maximum capacity
the most used facilities in
Now that it is re-opening, it
September 2008, she said.
appointment only from 9
y, Tuesday and Thursday.
be reserved by calling 931-

Classes are held in the building during the week and weekend events often include weddings, birthdays and anniversaries, Hofstadt said.

The building closed to the public last August and the rededication ceremony will be its official grand opening for the public. The American Legion and VFW posts were able to move their items back in at the end of September. There are two rooms—a social room and a formal meeting room—that are inaccessible to the public and strictly reserved for the veterans.

For the vets, the building is more than a meeting place. It is almost considered sacred ground, explained Dave Ham, commander of the VFW post.

"That is our haven. After Vietnam, when vets came home, it was the one place they felt safe. It's our shrine. This is a real sanctuary for us," said Ham. "We now have vets returning from Iraq. The Veterans Hall is the one place they can come to and they feel at home. It's the one place where they will speak openly about their experiences. You can get things off your chest without criticism or being challenged."

Joe Stieber, commander of the American Legion, said many veterans have a strong emotional attachment to the Veterans Hall.

"It's patriotic history. You have a group of people getting together to preserve their friendship and their camaraderie for posterity," he said.

For more than a year, construction workers painstakingly labored behind a chain-link barricade to bring the old building up to date, without changing its outward appearance.

To seismically strengthen the building, the roof was removed, steel columns were installed and attached to the existing concrete walls. The roof was seismically sheathed with plywood and the original, handmade terra cotta barrel tiles were re-attached. While the roof tiles were off the building, they were stored at the closed downtown fire station, she said.

All light fixtures inside and outside the building were cleaned, restored and rewired, she said, explaining that they had to work with the updated electrical system.

People often ask her if the two black iron and glass sconces on the front of the building are new, Hofstadt said. Actually, they are original to the building, but were well hidden from view by two trees that were recently removed. Similarly, the star-shaped glass fixture hanging over the entrance is original. It's been cleaned, polished and restored, and now really stands out at night, she said.

The velvet, cabernet-colored window coverings in the main hall as well as the matching curtains on the stage are all new, but the maple hardwood floors are original to the building and were simply refinished.

Similarly, the open-beam wooden ceiling is original and was dusted clean during the renovation. Now, hand-painted stenciling on the bottom cross beams is more visible.

"It looks fantastic. I am in awe when I walk through that building," Stieber said. "The attention to detail to keep it circa the 1930s is amazing."

"We are pretty excited about the re-opening. The hall has always been a monument and a place where veterans go," Ham said. "Every Saturday we meet for coffee. It doesn't matter if you are a World War II vet, a Korean War-, Vietnam- or Iraqi War vet. You're all welcome. When you walk in, there's a camaraderie that's unbelievable." ■



Jeb Bing

Dave Hamm, commander of VFW Post 6298, has his arm on the newly-refurbished mantel in the building's social and formal meeting room that is reserved exclusively for Pleasanton's American Legion and VFW posts.



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

- Wednesday, October 10, 2007
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue
- PAUP 4, Jennifer A. Hosterman
Application for an animal use permit to allow a red tailed hawk to be kept in the rear yard accessory structure of an existing residence located at 2922 Chardonnay Drive.
 - PUD 87 19 03M, Brad Hirst/William and Lydia Yee
Work session to review and provide comment on an application for a major modification to an existing Planned Unit Development to subdivide an approximately 29.8 acre property into six custom lots ranging from 3.22 acres to 10.65 acres. The property is located at 4100 Foothill Road.
 - PUD-64, 4238 First Street, LLC
Application for Planned Unit Development rezoning and development plan approval to: (1) rezone an existing 13,161 square foot parcel from RM 25 (Multiple Family Residential) to PUD HDR (Planned Unit Development – High Density Residential); (2) renovate the existing home; and (3) construct four detached single family units ranging from 1,500 square feet to 1,750 square feet at the property located at 4238 First Street.

Library Commission

- Thursday, October 11, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Community Room, 400 Old Bernal Avenue
- Visit our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us to view the meeting agenda.

Parks and Recreation Commission

- Thursday, October 11, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue
- For more information visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us

Youth Commission

- Wednesday, October 10, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.
- Review of Draft FY 2008/09 City Grant
 - FY 2007/08 City Grant Program, Commissions' Quarterly Project Performance Review
 - Discussion of Haunted House Event
 - Discussion Regarding the Book "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens," by Sean Covey

Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee

- Monday, October 8, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Operation Service Center, 3333 Busch Road
- Visit our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us to view the meeting agenda.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Employment Opportunities*
- Youth Sports Official – Basketball
(Part-time, Temporary) \$9.57 - \$11.63 per hour (depending upon experience) Open Until Filled
- Paratransit Driver Trainee
(Part-time, Temporary) \$9.57 per hour (Payroll Title: Recreation Program Aide) Open Until Filled
- Recreation Program Assistant
(Part-time, Temporary) \$11.15 - \$11.71 per hour (depending upon experience) Closing Date: October 12, 2007

- 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

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

Community Pulse

Police Bulletin

Four arrested at DUI checkpoint

Four drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol during a Sept. 22 DUI/driver's license checkpoint. Five vehicles were also impounded for either DUI or for driver's license violations.

Held between 7:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. on north-bound Hopyard Road, south of Inglewood Drive, Pleasanton, Livermore and California Highway Patrol officers screened 885 vehicles. Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) provided educational materials to those passing through the checkpoint.

Thirteen drivers were given field sobriety tests, 20 drivers were further investigated for driver's license violations and 11 drivers were given citations for license violations.

Car theft email scares debunked

Fears stemming from key-copying car thieves

can be put to rest, according to Officer Penelope Tamm.

Apparently emails are floating around saying an average thief could steal a car by writing down a vehicle identification number and then requesting a copied key from an auto dealership. Snopes.com, a Web site seeking to dispel urban myths and rumors, claims California crooks forged paperwork in addition to the aforementioned method. They were allegedly caught and arrested.

Tamm said she contacted several Tri-Valley dealerships only to be told that a photo ID and paperwork (like a pink slip, registration, etc.) showing a direct match, not just a family name, must be shown in order to secure a duplicate key. Some must send the request to headquarters, "adding one more step," Tamm said.

"While there are no absolutes in life, this manner of stealing cars is not as easy as the legend makes it sound," she said.

Police Report

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

- Sept. 22**
- Theft:
 - 6:18 a.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; identity theft
 - 9:43 a.m. in the 4200 block of Jensen Street; petty theft
 - 10:39 a.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
 - 2:06 p.m. in the 100 block of Valley Avenue
 - 5:49 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; petty theft
 - Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 12:35 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
 - 7:50 a.m. in the 600 block of Happy Valley Road; under the influence of a controlled substance
 - 9:14 p.m. in the 2300 block of Crestline Road; marijuana possession, marijuana possession of more than 28.5 grams, controlled substance possession
 - 9:57 p.m. in the 2600 block of Willowren Way; DUI
 - 10:17 p.m. in the 3700 block of Currey Street; DUI

- Sept. 23**
- Vandalism:
 - 8:25 a.m. in the 5300 block of Sunol Boulevard
 - Vehicular burglary:
 - 8:02 p.m. in the 800 block of Main Street
 - Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 12:02 p.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness, marijuana possession
 - Assault:
 - 1:39 a.m. in the 5100 block of Golden Road
 - Mental health danger:
 - 5:37 a.m. in the 2200 block of

- Segundo Court
- Sept. 24**
- Theft:
 - 7:13 a.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road; grand theft
 - 9:00 a.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle; grand theft
 - 2:31 p.m. in the 3200 block of Vineyard Avenue; grand theft
 - 6:49 p.m. in the 3100 block of Corte Del Cino; identity theft
 - 7:49 p.m. in the 700 block of Montevino Drive; petty theft
 - 9:28 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
 - Vandalism:
 - 2:31 p.m. in the 3200 block of Vineyard Avenue; worth over \$400
 - Vehicular burglary:
 - 12:12 p.m. in the 7800 block of Olive Court; lost property
 - Lost property:
 - 1:42 p.m. in the 7900 block of Stoneridge Drive

- Sept. 25**
- Theft:
 - 6:53 a.m. in the 6800 block of Herrin Court; stolen vehicle
 - 8:35 a.m. in the 7800 block of Flagstone Drive; stolen vehicle
 - 9:04 a.m. in the 6100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; forgery
 - 11:56 a.m. in the 3900 block of Bernal Avenue; forgery
 - 2:21 p.m. in the 6100 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; forged checks
 - 4:07 p.m. in the 2300 block of Goldcrest Circle; identity theft
 - Vehicular burglary:
 - 9:57 a.m. in the 3200 block of Vineyard Avenue
 - 10:13 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road
 - Mental health danger:
 - 4:26 a.m. at the intersection of Division and Fair streets
 - Truant:
 - 11:17 a.m. in the 4700 block of

- First Street
- Sept. 26**
- Theft:
 - 9:43 a.m. in the 3600 block of Ashwood Drive; forgery
 - 11:37 a.m. in the 1000 block of Crellin Road; grand theft
 - Truant:
 - 11:25 a.m. in the 200 block of Main Street
- Sept. 27**
- Theft:
 - 6:04 a.m. in the 3000 block of Briggs Court; petty theft
 - 9:57 a.m. in the 6900 block of Koll Center Parkway; stolen vehicle
 - 10:09 a.m. in the 300 block of Briggs Court; grand theft
 - 9:32 p.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive; fraud
 - Vandalism:
 - 2:20 p.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Busch Road; worth less than \$400
 - Vehicular burglary:
 - 7:07 a.m. in the 7300 block of Tulipwood Circle
 - 9:29 a.m. in the 3400 block of Park Place
 - 12:05 p.m. in the 7200 block of Valley View Court
 - Public drunkenness:
 - 1:14 a.m. in the 500 block of Tawny Drive
- Sept. 28**
- Theft:
 - 1:12 p.m. in the 5300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; robbery
 - 2:00 p.m. in the 4600 block of Chabot Drive; stolen vehicle
 - 6:15 p.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; grand theft
 - 9:49 p.m. in the 5000 block of Case Avenue
 - Vandalism:
 - 9:54 a.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road; worth less than \$400

Transitions

Obituaries

Samuel Rae Roberts Sr.

Samuel Rae Roberts Sr. died Sept. 19 in Pleasanton at the age of 78.

Mr. Roberts was born Nov. 8, 1928 in Oakland. He served in the U.S. Army and was a tire recapper, working 41 years in the tire business with his father. He was a hardtop driver in the 1950s and was a member of the Bay Cities Racing Association. He also enjoyed golf.

Mr. Roberts is survived by his wife of 56 years Lorraine; son Samuel Roberts Jr.; daughter Debbie Snook and husband Rich; brother Glenn and wife Sue; sister Wendy Presley and husband Robert; grandchildren Shannon, Kelsi and Megan and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents Clifford and Ruth Roberts.

A service was held Sept. 25 with burial at Memory Gardens in Livermore. Family requests donations be made to the American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 2680, North Canton, OH 44720.

Ochard Art Watson

Ochard Art Watson died Aug. 26 in Sturgis, S.D. at the age of 91.

Mr. Watson was born Aug. 29, 1915 in Mansfield, Texas. He served in the U.S. Navy in World War II in the Admiralty Islands.

He retired from Carpenter's Union Local No. 713 and was

a 25-year member of Pleasanton Masonic Lodge No. 321.

Mr. Watson is survived by his wife of 70 years Sylvia of Upton, Wyo.; two daughters Dora Brown (Gene) of Naples, Idaho, and Stella Zaro (Tom) of Pleasanton; two sons Frank Watson (Kay) of Sturgis, S.D., and Jim Watson (Chris) of Dayton, Nev.; sister Katie Bigelow of Ordway, Colo.; 14 grandchildren and 43 great-grandchildren.

Services were held at Upton United Methodist Church with burial at Black Hills National Cemetery near Sturgis, S.D. with military honors.

Family requests donations be made to cancer research.

Fred Poff

Fred Poff died Sept. 23 at the age of 64.

A Pleasanton resident for 10 years, Mr. Poff was born in Baltimore, M.D. on Oct. 16, 1942 to Helen and Milton Frederick Amrine, Jr.

A world traveler, having lived in several states and foreign countries, he was also a proud Vietnam War veteran, pilot, businessman, sales manager and advertising executive.

Mr. Poff is survived by the love of his life, his wife Gina Costello and son Troy Poff and his wife Laura of Denver.

A memorial service was held

Sept. 28 at St. Raymond's Catholic Church in Dublin. Family requests donations be made to Hope Hospice, 6500 Dublin Blvd., Ste. 100, Dublin, CA 94568.

Sandra Santiago

Sandra Jane Santiago died Sept. 27 at ValleyCare Medical Center in Pleasanton at the age of 52.

Mrs. Santiago was born Oct. 23, 1954 in Baltimore, M.D. and resided in Pleasanton for the past 20 years. Before that, she lived in Vallejo.

She is a graduate of Hogan High School in Vallejo. Mrs. Santiago was a homemaker and was also employed by ANG Newspapers for 18 years.

She is survived by her mother Sonya Roberts; sister Cheryl Asher of Vallejo; son Jason Santiago; daughter Carla Santiago; four grandchildren: Marysa Santiago, Makyah Santiago, Jennifer De Coster and Sean De Coster; nieces Andrea Gonzales and Erika Pauls and nephew Raymond Asher.

Her husband Carlos Santiago and father Charles W. Lanzer preceded her in death.

Visitation was held Oct. 1, and a service was held Oct. 2 at Graham-Hitch Mortuary. Burial followed at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Lafayette. Family requests donations be made to the American Cancer Society.

Weddings



Shannon Helton and Thomas Durbala

Shannon Helton and Thomas Durbala were married on Sept. 9 at Wente Vineyards in Livermore. Reverend Timothy Mills officiated the ceremony. A gorgeous reception followed at the winery, where 100 friends and family dined and danced into the evening.

Shannon is the daughter of Carley and Laura Helton of Middletown, Calif. and (the late) Patricia Helton of Pleasanton. For her wedding, the bride chose a beautiful white dress with beads and embroidery. Her attendants were Jacki Rulo, her best friend and maid of honor, Saida Montalvo, Deborah Gutierrez and Brenda Murphy.

Thomas is the son of George and Sarah Durbala of Rio Vista, Calif. His attendants were Adam Mcleod, as his best man, Orlando Cota, Zeke Pratt and Niloy Chatterjee.

The couple, which met in 2004, honeymooned in Mexico, and reside in Pleasanton.

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Calendar

Author Visits

Century House Reading From 2 to 4 p.m. Oct. 14 at the Century House, 2401 Santa Rita Road, the Century House Reading will feature poets Armand Brint, Ukiah, California's first Poet Laureate, and Jan Steckel, an award-winning writer of both poetry and prose. The cost is \$5 or free to students with an ID. Call 931-5350 or visit www.civcartsliterary.org.

The Reluctant Atheist Lawrence Bush, artist, activist and author of *Waiting for God: The Spiritual Explorations of a Reluctant Atheist*, will speak at 10 a.m. Oct. 13 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. *Waiting for God* is a challenging book of ideas for believers and non-believers alike. Sponsored by Tri-Valley Cultural Jews. Call 846-8826 or visit Tri-ValleyCulturalJews.org.

Book Clubs

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

Civic Meetings

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

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

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

Parks & Recreation Commission The Pleasanton Parks & Recreation Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the 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.

Classes

ADAS Art Demonstration: Bill Cone At 7:30 p.m. Oct. 9, award-winning painter Bill Cone will share his insights and techniques at Social Hall, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. This free class is open to the public and includes dessert and refreshments. This monthly program is hosted by the Alamo-Danville Artists Society. Call 691-5030 or visit www.adas4art.org.

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

Clubs

Amador Valley Quilters This month we welcome quilt teacher and author Peggy Martin, who will present her "Quick Strip Paper Piecing" lecture from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Oct. 13 at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Peggy will conduct her "Millennium Star" workshop the following day. Visit www.amadorvalleyquilters.org.

Award-winning Author to Speak The public is invited to hear award-winning producer Jack Cashill, author of "What's the Matter with California?" address a combined meeting of the Republican Women's Clubs of Contra Costa County from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 16 at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. Tickets are \$25. Call 837-6253 or visit www.srvnwf.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.

eBig Re-launch Party From 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 11, eBig, the East Bay Innovation Group (formerly known as the East Bay I.T. Group) is celebrating a re-launching at the Carr America Conference Center, 4400 Rosewood Drive. Email info@ebig.org.

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

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

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Weekend Preview



Exhibit features art inspired by colonial Mexico

A group of artists, including resident Charlotte Severin, are showing art inspired by a trip to Guadalajara, Guanajuato, San Miguel de Allende, Morelia and Patz Cuaro in March 2007. The "Colonial Mexico" Art Exhibition features drawings, paintings and photographs. An artists reception will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Oct. 6 at the Livermore Civic Center Library Gallery, 1188 S. Livermore Ave. The exhibit continues through Oct. 31. Call 373-5500 for details.

year. Contact Jeanie Haigh at jhaigh@webbearings.com or 373-7982.

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

Opportunity for Professional Women to Showcase Businesses and Network At 6 p.m. Oct. 16 at the Four Points by Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard Road, the Express to Success meeting will feature E2S members, who will showcase their businesses. Attendees will also practice a new networking technique. The cost is \$5 for non-members. Call 202-9077 or visit www.expresstosuccess.org.

Pleasanton Newcomers October Luncheon Join us at 11:30 a.m. Oct. 10 at Pastas Trattoria, 405 Main St., as Linda Wyner, co-owner of Pans On Fire as well as a local attorney and food columnist, discusses her new book, "Food for Thought: Musings on the History and Uses of Food." The cost is \$23. Reservations are required, by Oct. 6. Call Mary, 846-3625.

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

Toastmasters Pleasanton Community Toastmasters holds meetings Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Recreation Center, 4530 Sandalwood Drive. Learn the art of public speaking in a fun-filled supportive environment. Call Bobbi at 846-8654 or visit pleasantonttoastmasters.com.

Tri-Valley Holistic Moms Network Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at the same time & location. Dads and children are welcome. See www.holisticmoms.org.

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

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

Wilma Chan Speaks to Democrats State senate candidate Wilma Chan—an advocate on behalf of children and their families with priorities including health care, senior services, early childhood education, environmental health, and jobs and economic development—will talk and answer questions from 7 to 9 p.m. Oct. 15 at IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. Wheelchair accessible and free snacks. Call 831-8355 or visit www.TriValleyDems.com.

Events

Annual ArtWalk 2007 The Annual ArtWalk will transform Livermore into a fine arts district, bringing over 150 artists and their works into downtown businesses. Fine arts from photography to paintings to sculpture will be displayed from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 13 on First Street, with wine tasting from Livermore wineries, and folk musicians. Maps available. Call 243-0424 or visit www.tvag.org.

Annual Blessing of the Animals Blessing of the Animals will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 7 at Valley Humane Society, 3670 Nevada St. There is no charge, but donations are appreciated. Animals of all shapes and sizes are welcome, but must be on a leash or in a carrier. Each animal

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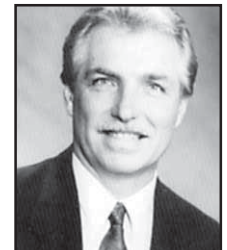
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Antique Faire From 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 14 downtown Pleasanton hosts an antique faire with more than 4000 professional dealers. Visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

Ghost Walks in Downtown Pleasanton "Ghost Walk" featuring the legends of the Downtown Pleasanton haunted buildings are every half hour from 5 to 8:30 p.m., Oct. 12-13. Each tour is about one and a half hours. Reservations necessary. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 5-12. Call 462-2766 or visit museumonmain.org.

Historic Martial Arts Demonstration Be a part of history! From 3 to 5 p.m. Oct. 7 at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Road, the North Korean National Tae Kwon Do Demo Team hosts the first-ever Goodwill Tour of the U.S.A.! Enjoy martial arts and cultural performances, help promote peace and friendship between the U.S.A. and North Korea, and witness a historic event. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for children 6-12, free for children 5 and under. Call 408-605-6450 or visit www.golighthouse.com/goodwill.

International Food Fair The International Food Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 13 at The ARK, 4100 First St. Free admission; all proceeds to benefit World Hunger.

The event features food booths, cooking demonstrations, kids jump houses and crafts, and live entertainment. The ARK is a collaboration of churches. Call 413-2166 or visit www.livingvine-fellowship.com.

Oktoberfest in Pleasanton From 1 to 5 p.m. Oct. 7 at the Old Cheese Factory Parking Lot, 830 Main St., the Pleasanton Downtown Association hosts an afternoon filled with the sounds of Public Eye, Harmony Fusion Chorus and the Polka Music of the Oompah Quartet. Enjoy food, fun, a variety of beers, and arts and crafts booths.

Operation: S.A.M. Holiday Drives for Military Annual Holiday Drives, sponsored by Operation: S.A.M. "Supporting All Military," will be held at Pleasanton Wal-Mart, 4501 Rosewood Drive, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 20 and Livermore Wal-Mart, 2700 Las Positas Road, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 13. The drives will collect goodies, cards and letters for troops. Call 989-3990 or visit www.operationsam.org.

Tom Del Beccaro to Speak Tom Del Beccaro, Vice Chair of the California Republican Party, will be the guest speaker for a dinner meeting of the Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Oct. 11. New members and visitors are welcome. Tickets are \$26 for members or \$30 for non-members. Advance reservations are required. Call 426-1995 by Oct. 7.

Exhibits

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

Fundraisers

Carol Channing Performance Broadway stage and film legend Carol Channing will perform at Cal State East Bay, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward, at 7 p.m. Oct. 9 promoting the arts in education. Tickets are \$60 and \$30 from each ticket sale will go to a Theatre and Dance Department scholarship. Call 510-885-4109.

Carol Channing Sponsors' Dinner Broadway stage and film legend Carol Channing will host a dinner at the new University Union, Cal State East Bay, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward, at 6 p.m. Oct. 8 promoting the arts in education. \$30 from each ticket sale will go to a Theatre and Dance Department scholarship. Call 510-885-4109.

Cook for A Cause In October, GourMade Cookery, 7060 Koll Center Parkway, Ste. 320, will be donating five percent of sales of every Cook for A Cause menu item sold. To register for a session or place an order visit www.gourmadecookery.com or call 846-4774.

Day of Golf and Fun The Tri-Valley Special Needs Fund is hosting the inaugural Day of Golf and Fun Oct. 8 at Las Positas Golf Club in Livermore. The nonprofit organization, formerly the Morelli Charitable Fund, provides support for Tri-Valley residents with developmental disabilities. Included in the event is a putting contest, skills clinics, lunch, prizes, dinner and auctions. To participate and/or to be a sponsor, call Sharon at 225-1135.

Hoofprints on the Heart Hoedown Hoofprints on the Heart Adaptive Riding Center hosts a hoedown at Cedar Mountain Winery, 7000 Tesla Road, Livermore, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Oct. 20. Tickets are \$40 and proceeds will go towards program expenses, horse board and client scholarships. Call Peggy James, 455-9460.

Hope Sees a Star Memorial Auction ZNEart.com presents the Hope Sees a Star Fundraising Auction, online at www.HopeSeesaStar.com from Oct. 1-15. The international group of independent artists plans to create a permanent installation in memory of two local teenage girls, Stevie McMoyler and Brianna Grant, who died from fatal diseases in April and June, respectively. Call 249-0979.

That's Amore Tri-Valley Animal Rescue's biggest fundraiser of the year is scheduled for Oct. 6 at the Robert Livermore Center Courtyard, 4444 East Ave. This upscale event takes place from 6-10 p.m. with carnival booth games, dinner, raffle drawing, silent and Live Auction with something for everyone. Tickets are \$60. Call 456-0529 or visit www.tv-ar.org.

The Mother Bear Project Knit This, Purl That owner Beth Spisak has a goal of sending 100 teddy bears to needy children by December. She seeks knitters and crocheters who want to participate by purchasing an inexpensive pattern from The Mother Bear Project and completing a bear by December. The first meeting will take place at 7 p.m. Aug. 8 at 205A Main St. Call 249-9276 or visit www.yourknittingplace.com.

Thomas Hart Middle School Rummage Sale Donations Save your gently used clothes, household items, furniture, etc. and donate them to this annual tradition. Bring donations to the Thomas Hart Middle School multipurpose room from 3 to 6 p.m. Oct. 19. Tax deduction credit given. The Rummage Sale pays for many needed programs. Call 846-0329.

VFW Crab Feed Veterans of Foreign Wars of Pleasanton is hosting its annual crab feed at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 6 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353

Sunol Blvd. Tickets are \$34. Proceeds will go to Military Assistance Program (MAP), which assists military families in a time of crisis. No tickets at the door. Email james.lyon@L-3com.com or call 417-0252.

Walk to the Water, Walk-A-Thon Fundraiser Walk to the Water, a walk-a-thon fundraiser, will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 7 at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park, 2500 Stanley Blvd. The event will benefit underprivileged women and children in developing countries. Suggested Donations are \$20 per person, \$30 per couple, \$40 per family and includes lunch. Sponsored by Sisters In Service, Tri-Valley and East Bay Chapters. Call 998-3785 or visit www.walktothewater.org.

Health

East Bay Essential Tremor Did you know that essential tremor is the most common movement disorder with tremors of the hands and head? Dr. Robin Fross, movement disorder specialist, will discuss essential tremor, causes and treatments from 10 a.m. to noon Oct. 15 at San Ramon Regional Hospital, 6001 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. Public is welcome. Seating is limited. Call 487-5706. Pre-registration advised.

Free Health Fair Check up on your health with free health screenings at a free health fair, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Oct. 6 at the San Ramon Regional Health Center's South Conference Room, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. Fasting is recommended but not required. No reservations. Screening on a first come, first served basis. Call 800-284-2878.

Free Presentation on Taking Control of Your Health The Pleasanton Chamber is hosting a presentation by Dave Becker at noon Oct. 11 at 777 Peters Ave. "Take Control of Your Health," will cover ways to bring about well being through simple exercise, clean and healthy drinking water, quality sleep, whole food nutrition, and fresh air in the home. Call 846-5858 or visit www.pleasanton.org.

Public Flu Shot Clinic Sutter VNA and Hospice nurses will be administering flu shots to children ages 9-13 (with a doctor's note/prescription) and 13-18 (with parental permission), adults and seniors from 9:30 a.m. to noon Oct. 14 at Presbyterian Church of Pleasanton, 4300 Mirador Drive. Shots are \$25 each. Call 800-500-2400 or visit www.suttervna.org.

Kids & Teens

Lizard Detective at the Library? Bruce Hale, author of the best-selling Chet Gecko Mysteries for Children, visits the Pleasanton Library at 7 p.m. Oct. 9. An award-winning author/illustrator and storyteller, Hale will feature his book The Malted Falcon, tongue-in-cheek takeoff on the detective classic The Maltese Falcon. Call 931-3400 ext.8.

Monart Art Open House Monart hosts an open house from 2 to 5 p.m. Oct. 7 at 3015-I Hopyard Road. Included are refreshments, products on display, a raffle for 6-week art class, and free art lessons for ages 6-12, at 2:30 and at 3:30. Call 484-0126.

Lectures/Workshops

"Rail Wars" Lecture At 7 p.m. Oct. 18 at the Museum On Main Street, 603 Main St., train enthusiast Chris Rizzoli will talk about the forces that brought the two transcontinental rail lines to the valley and the competition between them. Tickets are \$5 or \$10. Call 462-2766 or visit museumonmain.org.

Dealing with Hearing Loss Hard of hearing? Know someone who is? Learn how hearing loss is measured and detected, how to cope, and who to turn to for solutions at 10 a.m. Oct. 9 at the Pleasanton Senior Center,



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Calendar

5353 Sunol Blvd. The cost is \$1.50 for residents; \$2 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

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.

First Time Home Buyer Seminar A free educational first-time home buyer seminar will be held Oct. 15 in San Ramon. Free buyer checklists, mortgage tips and refreshments are provided. Learn about the benefits of home ownership and qualification. Call 586-0429 or visit www.idreamreality.com.

Hammett, Hellman and the HUAC

Michael Shepler discusses Dashiell Hammett's transition from Pinkerton detective to mystery writer/novelist to Hollywood scriptwriter at 2 p.m. Oct. 13 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call 931-3405.

HR Career Development: A Panel Discussion

This meeting, at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 10 at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin, is intended to be an open panel discussion with some of the leading Human Resources professionals in the Bay Area. Tickets are \$30 for NCHRA members or \$50 for non-members. Call 415-291-1992 or visit www.nchra.org.

Nutrition and Cancer Treatment

Learn what to eat (even when you don't feel like it) and ways to effectively hydrate at this free workshop, at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 18 at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut

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Calendar

Creek. Find out how to establish nutritional goals during and after cancer treatment, and how foods play a role in maintaining and regaining health. Call 933-0107 or visit www.twc-bayarea.org.

Preparing and Presenting the Business Plan Techventures presents a free workshop on business plans from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Oct. 17 at the Carr America Conference Center, 4400 Rosewood Drive. Preparing and Presenting the Business Plan takes the entrepreneur step through the process of developing and writing a business plan. Call 960-1600 or visit www.techventures.org.

Retire with Confidence Dinner Seminar Sterlent Credit Union invites you to attend a free "Retire with Confidence" dinner seminar at 7 p.m. Oct. 16 at 5121 Hopyard Road. Topics to be covered: Helpful strategies for tax diversification for your retirement, learn how to protect the longevity of your retirement and more. Call 242-3059.

Live Music

Chris Bradley's Jazz Band Chris Bradley's Jazz Band plays live at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St., every second and fourth Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. No cover charge.

Perla Batalla Grammy nominee Perla Batalla will perform at 8 p.m. Oct. 6 at Grand Theatre Center for the Arts, 715 Central Ave., Tracy. She celebrates the vibrant Latin-American culture with music filled with imagery and mysticism. Tickets range from \$25 to \$50. Call 209-831-6858.

Miscellaneous

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

Kittens Seek Foster Homes The East Bay SPCA's Foster Care Program seeks foster homes for the upcoming

kitten season. For more information, contact the East Bay SPCA at (510) 563-4632 or visit www.eastbayspca.org/foster.

World War II Remembered

Pleasanton Public Library presents Herb Street at 2 p.m. Oct. 7. He will speak about his experiences as a World War II dive bomber pilot and prisoner of war. Popular music from the War era will be performed by Kit Nelson and the Muir Station Band.

On Stage

Actors' Benefit Performance

Ruthless! The Musical Ruthless! The Musical By Joel Paley & Marvin Laird, directed by John Maio, musical direction by Joe Simiele. Hilarious musical that parodies The Bad Seed, Gypsy, All About Eve and others. The show will be held at 8 p.m. Oct. 11 at Danville Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville, performance benefits the cast. Tickets at the door only; \$10 suggested donation. Call 820-1278 or visit www.danvilletheatre.com.

Alice In Wonderland Alice in Wonderland is a musical put on by Creekside Community Church's Kids Theater. The sixth, seventh and eighth graders will perform at 7 p.m. Oct. 5-6 at the church, 951 MacArthur Blvd., San Leandro. Tickets are \$3; ages 2 and under are free. Call Jenny, (510) 430-0607, or visit www.creeksidecommunity.org.

Role Players production Ruthless! The Musical Ruthless! The Musical by Joel Paley and Marvin Laird, directed by John Maio, musical direction by Joe Simiele. Parodies The Bad Seed, Gypsy and others Thursday-Sunday Oct. 12-Nov. 3. Tickets are available at www.villagetheatreshows.com; Danville Community Center, 420 Front St., Danville; and 314-3400.

Seniors

Computer Tutoring One-on-one computer tutoring is available every day at the Pleasanton Senior Center. The tutor works with you on topics where you need help. No formal program to follow, just help where you need it. Internet, Office applications, picture editing, etc. Call 931-5365 to set up an appointment. The cost is \$1.50 for residents and \$2 for non-residents.

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.

Ghost Walk and Dinner Meet at the Pleasanton Senior Center for a lasagna dinner Oct. 12. We will take Paratransit downtown and be led on a guided Ghost Walk Tour of Downtown Pleasanton. Paratransit will then give us a ride back to the Senior Center. Tickets are \$25 for residents or \$28 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

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.

PC Users Group The PC User Group meets monthly at 10 a.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. You don't need to be an expert to attend, we have all skills levels in our meetings. The usual Senior Center charges apply. The cost is \$1.50 or \$2.00.

Transitions Support Group Are you or someone you know: 60 or older and living in Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore or Sunol? Looking for a warm and supportive environment to connect with others? In need of a place to share, support and reminisce? Join the Transitions Support Group meeting

2:30 to 4 p.m. every Wednesday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call 931-5379 for info.

Spiritual

Care for the World St. Clare's Episcopal Church Chancel Choir presents this inspirational festival service focusing on the environment and our responsibility as stewards of God's creation at 5:15 p.m. Oct. 14 at 3350 Hopyard Road. Published by the Royal School of Church Music. Call 462-4802.

Peace Meditation A one-hour silent meditation on peace will take place on the second Saturday of the month at Downtown Yoga, 220B Division St. No talking—just sitting. No political affiliation or religious denomination. Free to all. Call 819-9983.

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

Sports

Lake Chabot Mountain Ride Join cyclists of all levels for this friendly, no-drop mountain ride at 6 p.m. every Tuesday in October. Meet the Cyclepath group at the Ranger station. Most rides last approximately two hours. Riders should be in good fitness; have a well-adjusted, safe mountain bike (with a light); and general knowledge of bike handling skills. Call 485-3218.

Sunday Morning Group Ride Join cyclists of all levels for this friendly, no-drop ride. Routes vary weekly (25-55 miles) and last approximately two hours. We meet at 8:30 a.m.

at Cyclepath, 337-B Main St., to determine our route and fill tires for a 9:00 a.m. departure. Riders warm up together and split into smaller groups based on skill level. Call 485-3218.

Support Groups

John Argue Visits Parkinson's Group At 10 a.m. Oct. 13 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., John Argue will speak at the Tri-Valley Parkinson's Support Group. John will present his tried and true exercise techniques that can slow the progression of Parkinson's symptoms, reduce pain and stiffness, and promote ease of movement. Contact Jackie and Norman, 831-9940 or jackiebard@pacbell.net.

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

Overeaters Anonymous Is Food Controlling Your Life? This group meets every Monday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Lynnewood United Methodist Church, Room C-5, 4444 Black Ave. This is a 12-step study and discussion meeting and newcomers are welcome. Call Georganne at 361-7224.

Stress and Pain Management Strategies and Support Learn how to use visualization, relaxation techniques and new ways of thinking (cognitive restructuring) to help reduce stress levels and down-regulate pain. Share experiences and ideas in a

supportive, caring environment. Free classes are held from 11 a.m. to noon the first Wednesday of each month at ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite 270. Facilitated by Betty Runnels, M.A., Counseling Psychology, Marriage and Family Therapy. Call 734-3315 or email bettyrunnels@earthlink.net.

Tri-Valley Parkinson's Support Group This group provides peer support for those affected by Parkinson's disease and for their caregivers, families and friends. The group meets from 10 a.m.-noon, the second Saturday of the month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call 831-9940 or email jackiebard@pacbell.net.

Vision Support Group Individuals with low vision, and their loved ones, are invited to join us on the third Tuesday of each month from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Join us for low vision information, speakers, resources, discussions, and day trips. No reservations are required. Nominal fees may apply. Call 931-5369.

Widow/Widowers Support Group Have you or someone you know experienced the death of a spouse recently or within the last couple years? Find hope, support and successful ways to process this significant life event. Course is open to all widows and widowers. Enrollments are now being accepted and can start up to third week. Pre-registration required. The workbook is \$5. The group meets from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Saturdays from Oct. 6 to Dec. 15 at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Pkwy. Call Linda Husted at 833-9013.

Volunteering

Blankets for Kids Blankets For Kids, founded by Pleasanton resident Jo Molz, makes and distributes soft



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CA Stampin'	Best Hobby / Craft Store
Callippe Preserve	Best Golf Course
Cardinal Jewelers	Best Jewelry Store
Clover Creek	Best Home Furnishings
Cosmo's Custom Barber	Best Hair Salon for Men
Domus of Pleasanton	Best Place to Buy a Gift Best Place to Buy Cookware
Downtown Yoga	Best Yoga / Pilates
East Bay BMW	Best Auto Dealership
Essence Medespa	Best Medical Spa
Fontina	Best Main Street Restaurant
Fusion 3 Salon Spa	Best Hair Salon for Women
Girasole Grill	Best Italian Restaurant
GourMade Cookery	Best Assemble Your Own Meal Store
Hopyard Alehouse & Grill	Best American Food Restaurant
Best French Fries	Best Place for an After Work Drink
Jazz N Taps	Best Place for Dance Lessons
Lily Ann's Lingerie	Best Lingerie Store
Oasis Grille	Best Mediterranean / Middle Eastern Restaurant
Passionate Athlete	Best Women's Clothing Store
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Red Smoke Grill	Best Barbecue
S&G Carpet	Best Carpet Store Best Flooring Store
Savvy Seconds	Best Consignment Store
Serenity Stoneworks	Best Outdoor Furniture Store
Shear Magic	Best Pet Groomer
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Meals on Wheels Drivers are needed to deliver meals to seniors in Pleasanton from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. once a week. Call Julie, 931-5385.

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue Do you love animals? Become a volunteer

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

TV30

In a Word Join hosts Jim Ott and Kathy Cordova during the month of October with Lisa See, author of "Peony in Love." Bookclub discussion of The Maltese Falcon with guests and authors Hailey Lind and Mark

Coggins. On Channel 30 every day at 6:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m., and 3 p.m. weekdays. Sponsored by Towne Center Books.

Let's Talk Sports TV30's George "Dr. B" Baljevich Special: Boxing from King's Gym with Andre Ward, Olympic Gold Medalist and undefeated as a professional will air on Channel 30 weekdays at 11:30 a.m., 2 and 6 p.m., and Fri. and Sat. at 4 p.m.

Let's Talk Sports TV30's George "Dr. B" Baljevich presents an Oakland A's Golf Special with current and former players Vida Blue, Dave Stewart, Nick Swisher and Dan Haren. On Channel 30 weekdays at 11:30 a.m., 2 and 6 p.m., Fri. and Sat. at 4 p.m.

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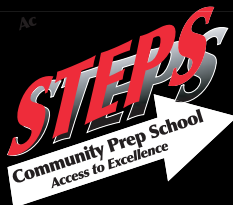
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Send a cover letter and resume to Gina Channell-Allen, president / publisher, gallen@pleasantonweekly.com; The Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Ste. 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566; or fax to 925-600-9559.

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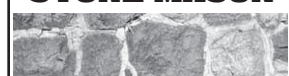
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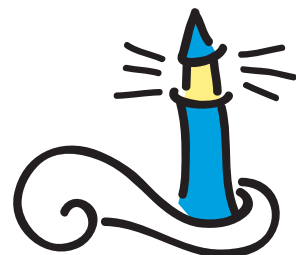
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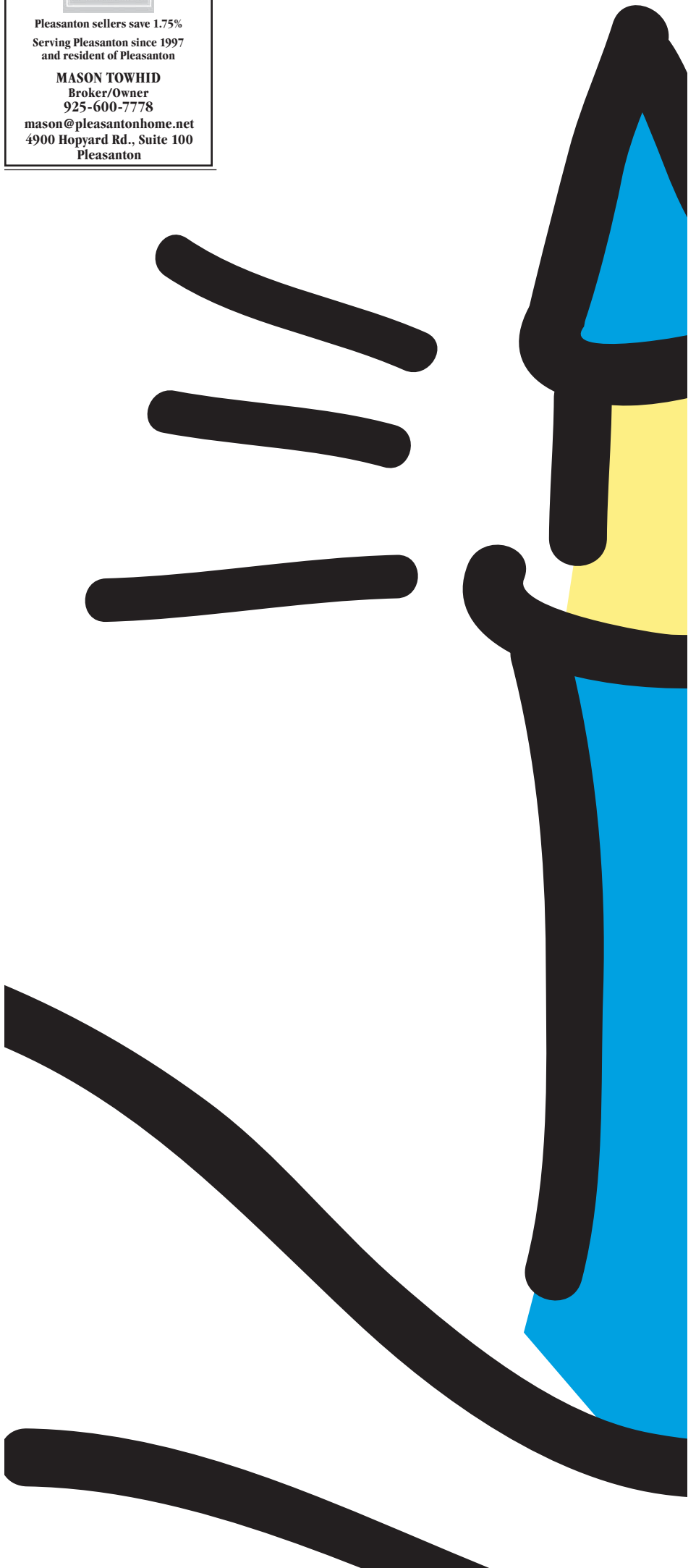
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Asian-Pacific

Mahalo Grille

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

Barbecue

Red Smoke Grill

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

redsmokegrill.com.

Brewpub/Alehouse

The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill

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

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

California Cuisine

Stacey's at Waterford

4500 Tassajara Road, Ste. C., Dublin, 551-8325. We serve seasonal California cuisine using the

freshest ingredients, with delicious dishes including seafood, pasta, meat, wood fired pizza and even vegetarian choices. Available for special events on Sundays. Visit www.staceysatwaterford.com.

Stacey's Cafe

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

Catering

Fontina's Catering

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

Chinese

Chinese Szechuan

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

Panda Mandarin Cuisine

30 W. Angela St., Pleasanton, 484-4880. Panda offers several delicious specials using fresh ingredients and spices that make traditional northern Chinese cuisine such a delight. Open for lunch Monday through Friday, dinner Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday. A private banquet room is available. Visit www.pandapleasanton.com.

Willow Tree Chinese Cuisine

6512 Regional St, Dublin, 828-9111. Since 1978 Willow Tree has offered authentic Dim-Sum and banquet buffet cuisine. We prepare each dish with the freshest ingredients and are dedicated to hospitality. View our complete menu at www.willowtreerestaurant.com

Continental

Barone's

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

Fusion

Oasis Grille

780 Main St., Pleasanton, 417-8438. Visit downtown Pleasanton's exotic dining destination. Oasis features kabobs, rice and vegetar-



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(925) 462-2800
reservations recommended



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

Dining Out



ian dishes, to name a few. Check out our updated wine and exotic cocktail menus. We also cater! Visit www.OasisGrille.com.

Italian

Fontina Ristorante

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

Frankie, Johnnie & Luigi Too!

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

La Vite Ristorante

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

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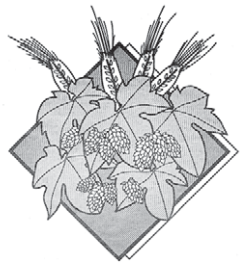


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www.hopyard.com

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plus a superb selection of spirits
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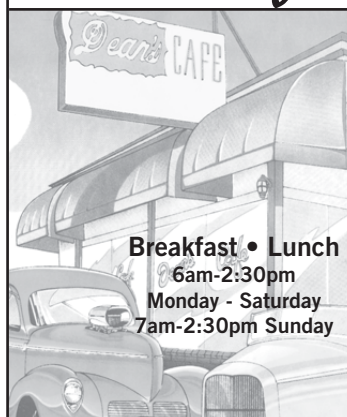
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