

# PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Vol. VIII, Number 41 • November 9, 2007

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It's all about Pleasanton



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# Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

## Remembering Ed Kinney on the balcony

Nearly 100 of us gathered on the balcony of the Pleasanton Hotel recently to dedicate "The Ed Kinney Balcony" sign that Charles Huff and Jim Allen had installed a few hours earlier. And with good reason. The balcony was where Ed Kinney, who died two years ago, was often seen as the announcer of the many parades held on Main Street. Announcing the parades was a tradition started by then popular KNBR's radio talk show hosts Frank Dill and Mike Cleary in the 1970s. Kinney joined them as a co-announcer in 1975. The next year, when Frank and Mike were on a float in Pleasanton's parade marking the country's bicentennial, Kinney became the key announcer for that parade, which drew more than 90,000 spectators. Unable to do both, Kinney gave up his antics as a marching member of the famed Balloon Platoon, and announced Pleasanton parades for the next 30 years.

Kinney actually organized 26 downtown parades over the years. In 1988, he was named chairman of the annual Hometown Christmas Tree Lighting (now called Home Town Holiday) Parade. He once told me that from his balcony position he had probably seen more jugglers and city mayors—though not the same people, he quickly added—than anyone in town. He drew loud applause at one parade a few years ago when there was a cloudburst just as TV weathercaster Roberta Gonzales passed by in an open convertible. "Let me tell you folks," Kinney announced in his booming voice over loud speakers, "she said there would just be a chance of intermittent showers today."

Long known as the "voice of

Pleasanton," he was such a familiar figure on the Pleasanton Hotel balcony that the hundreds of us who knew him, worked with him and mourned his passing decided that the best public tribute would be the sign everyone can now see from down below on Main Street.

Besides his high profile role as parade announcer, Kinney also was known for his service and contributions throughout our community. He was elected to the City Council in 1972 and served as mayor in 1975 and 1976. Driving with him one day and stopped repeatedly by red lights, Kinney confessed that as mayor, he championed a measure to install the city's first traffic light at Black Avenue and Santa Rita Road. It was a legacy he didn't cherish.

While on the council he started researching Pleasanton's history and was so engrossed and involved in the city that he turned down an out-of-state promotion by his medical supply employer. He started in the real estate business in 1983 and by 1990 was named "Salesman of the Year" at Hometown GMAC Real Estate. His repeat business from satisfied homeowners who wanted to move up as larger houses were built gave Kinney a sales base that eventually exceeded first-time customers.

Kinney is being remembered in many ways. The Museum On Main, where Kinney was a board member, has established the Ed Kinney Lecture Series. The Ed Kinney Community Patriot Award is given annually to community leaders. Now a special plaque shines out from the Pleasanton Hotel balcony, for all of us to see and remember as we drive or walk by. Take a look. ■

### About the Cover

Recent events have added to the concerns of educators, parents and students over life on the fast-track for teenagers and even younger children in Pleasanton. Here's a detailed report on keeping kids safe in our community. Cover photo and layout by Lili Cao.

Vol. VIII, Number 41

The Pleasanton Weekly is published weekly by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840. USPS 020407. The Pleasanton Weekly is mailed free upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. Voluntary subscriptions at \$30 per year (\$50 for two years) are welcome from Pleasanton residents. Subscription rate for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$40 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566. © 2007 by Embarcadero Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

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# Streetwise

**Q:** Given Southern California's recent devastating wildfires, do you think there is a similar risk here?

Asked Downtown



**Claes Elfving**

Investigator

I think there is a similar possibility. People should take the necessary precautions to limit the risks such as clearing brush around their homes. We need to remember what happened in the Oakland Hills fire and always be aware of the potential for wildfires in these hills.

**Greg Scott**

Orange County Police Sergeant

I am not familiar with your weather conditions but we had the Santa Ana winds and dry conditions that really fueled those fires. If I were in local government the big thing I would focus on would be contingency planning—where fires are most likely to hit, hot spots, resources available, especially in outlying areas.



**Robert Stell**

Maintenance Mechanic

With the hot summers we could certainly have a similar situation up here. I think it is something of utmost concern. My brothers are both firefighters in Southern California and the devastation the fires caused is unbelievable. We need to be thinking about it and preparing.



**Robin Sigman**

Web site Designer

I am not that concerned for the immediate area. We seem pretty safe here. Perhaps out in the Valley more, it might be dangerous. I'm more concerned about the earthquakes.



**Tricia Gonsman**

Stay-at-Home Mom

I definitely think there are similar risks here. We are in a drought, conditions are very dry. People need to tend their properties, keep brush down and help out their neighbors.



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

Compiled by Cybele Ryan

# Newsfront

## News Digest

### Amador, Foothill play in farewell performance

The Amador Valley High and Foothill High marching bands will present field shows at the Family and Friends Performance at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 13 at the AVHS Stadium, 1155 Santa Rita Road. The AVHS Colorguard will also join in the show, which presents a farewell as the Dons will soon depart for the Western Band Association championships.

### Boutique today, tomorrow at Veteran's Memorial Building

A Christmas Boutique will be held from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. today and tomorrow at the Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main St. Sponsored by the Ambrose D. Regalia Auxiliary to Pleasanton VFW Post 6289, the boutique will feature handcrafted items.

### Pleasanton Community Concert Band plans children's concert

The Pleasanton Community Concert Band will present its annual children's concert at 2 p.m. Nov. 18 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. The free concert, called "A Cartoon Hour," will feature music of famous cartoons from the past and present, including Mickey Mouse, SpongeBob SquarePants and Bart Simpson, according to Bud Engel, vice president of publicity for the band. For more information, call 846-5897 or visit [www.pleasantonband.org](http://www.pleasantonband.org).

### Big Read Bash

Dance to Sara and Swingtime, listen to music, eat and drink in the library as a part of The Big Read Bash—A Maltese Falcon Library Gala. The gala is from 8 to 11 p.m. tomorrow at the library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors and can be purchased at the library or at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Dress as Sam Spade or come just as you are. Call 931-3405 for more information.

### Accusplit provides pedometers to schools

Teaming up with the Pleasanton PTA Council, pedometer company Accusplit provided pedometers to all Pleasanton Unified School District elementary schools for use with physical education students in grades 3 to 5. Accusplit President W. Ron Sutton is a founding member of the PTA's Wellness Committee.

## Oak Grove approved 4-1 by City Council

*Opponents launch referendum effort to overturn decision*

by Jeb Bing

The City Council voted 4-1 to give final approval to the Oak Grove project Tuesday, which will allow the landowners to build 51 estate homes in the hills atop Kottinger Ranch as part of an agreement for them to give nearly 500 adjacent acres to the city of Pleasanton for trails and other public amenities.

Opponents vowed to overturn the hotly contested measure and launched a drive Wednesday to collect more than the 3,500 signatures needed to place a referendum on a future ballot to seek voter approval to stop the development.

The council's vote came at the end of a two-hour discussion, one

of a number of public hearings on Oak Grove over the past year. There were actually two measures voted on: One was a planned unit development (PUD) allowing 51 home sites on 77 acres at the end of Hearst Drive in Kottinger Ranch. Owned by Jennifer, Frederic and Kevin Lin, the property will be subdivided into large lots capable of holding homes from 8,000 to 12,000 square feet. The second measure was a development agreement which commits the Lins to give the rest of their property—496 acres—to the city.

Preliminary plans considered by the city Parks and Recreation Commission, city officials and the council call for creating pub-

lic trails and equestrian paths on the hilltop land with public access from Hearst Drive to a staging area that will include a parking lot, restrooms and even a water trough for horses. The Lins will pay for the trails and the amenities as well as contribute \$1 million to the city for traffic lights and other needs deemed necessary to handle the additional traffic through Kottinger Ranch.

"I am proud of the process that created Oak Grove," Mayor Jennifer Hosterman said. "This PUD allows the city to get something spectacular for the community: a gift of 496 acres of open space preserved in perpetuity."

Three others joined Hosterman

in approving the project: Councilmembers Matt Sullivan, Jerry Thorne and Cheryl Cook-Kallio.

However, Councilwoman Cindy McGovern voted against the proposal, arguing that she is concerned that there won't be adequate access to the 51 homes in the event of a hillside fire or other emergency. She also opposes the large size of the proposed homes that she believes will be visible from other parts of Pleasanton.

"I think the trade-off on this is too great," McGovern said, referring to the developer agreement to allow the homes in exchange for the 496-acre land grant to Pleasanton.

(continued on page 11)



Reviewing passing color guard at the Veterans Day parade last Sunday are (from left) Coast Guard Rear Admiral Mary O'Donnell (retired), Command Master Chief Lani Cale-Jones, MLC Pacific, and local VFW District 14 Commander Gene Cota.

## Vets, supporters receive a warm welcome

*Annual Tri-Valley Veterans Day Parade draws 1,000; Veteran's Day holiday is Monday*

A crowd estimated at well over 1,000 cheered marchers and truckloads of veterans and others last Sunday at the 11th annual Tri-Valley Veterans Day Parade in downtown Pleasanton.

The parade stretched the full length of Main Street as more than 60 units lined up to march and ride in this largest veterans parade in the Bay Area. The parade included color guards from the Pleasanton Police Department, Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department, the VFW and from Travis Air Force Base.

Congressman Jerry McNerney

(D-Pleasanton) and his wife Mary waved to crowds as they were driven down Main Street. They were followed by mayors Jennifer Hosterman of Pleasanton, Marshall Kamena of Livermore and H. Abram Wilson of San Ramon, with Pleasanton City Council members Cheryl Cook-Kallio, Cindy McGovern, Matt Sullivan and Jerry Thorne, and Town Councilwoman Karen Stepper representing Danville also in the parade.

This year's theme was a tribute to those serving in the U.S. Coast Guard.

Coast Guard retired Rear Admiral Mary O'Donnell and Coast Guard Command Master Chief Lani Cale-Jones of MLC Pacific reviewed parade units from a stand in front of the

(continued on page 7)

## Mayor's Award goes to Friends of Kottinger Creek

*Grassroots group applauded for \$1.3-million project*

The prestigious Mayor's Award for 2007 was given Monday night to Friends of Kottinger Creek, a nonprofit, grassroots committee that persevered in gaining approval from the City Council for a \$1.3-million project to restore Kottinger Creek.

Those on the committee who shared in the award were Tom Gallagher, Mark Smith, Ron Taylor, Mary Smith, Earl Mincks, Cheri Puls, Pat Griffin, Phil Filbert and George Reid.

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman announced the award at the Mayor's Award dinner, held each year to honor individuals and groups that have contributed to the overall good of Pleasanton. More than 300 elected and appointed officials and volunteers turned out for the festive event.

In making the award, Hosterman said the group's effort goes back seven years to a morning when Earl Mincks went out into his yard on Kottinger Drive, looked across the street to the creek that flows through the neighborhood, and saw that many of the trees that were alongside the creek were now only stumps. He learned that city crews had dug out part of the area to improve water flow along the entire 1,820-foot-long creek.

"As you might expect, I was livid," Mincks said.

Winning the support of his neighbors, including his daughter Cheri Puls and neighbor Pat Griffin and 450 others, Mincks formed the Friends of Kottinger Creek, a nonprofit, grassroots committee that became part of the Alameda Creek Alliance. The groups advocated for the restoration and preservation of the creek, which is a tributary of Pleasanton's Arroyo Valle, which flows into Arroyo de la Laguna and Alameda Creek.

(continued on page 11)

## KEEP OUR PARK Committee



November 9, 2007

Dear Pleasanton Voter:

We are people who support open space, parks and trails in Pleasanton. Although a number of us hold appointed positions, we are writing to you as individuals in support of our slow-growth City Council. We applaud the Council's recently successful negotiations with the Oak Grove property owner, which won, for our community, a park in Pleasanton's southeast hills that is twice the size of Augustin Bernal Park on Pleasanton Ridge.

A small group of residents is currently gathering signatures to reverse the Council's approval of the Oak Grove plan. We are very concerned that this referendum will force the City to give back our newest, largest park, returning 496 acres of pristine oak woodlands to an unprotected, uncertain fate. Their companion initiative proposes new rules that effectively prevent property owners from dedicating large tracts of land to Pleasanton in the future. Please do not sign your name to these petitions.

After 10 years of negotiation, we do not believe the City can strike a better deal with the Oak Grove property owner. We also share the City Council's hope that the Oak Grove plan will serve as a model for adding more land dedications to expand this park in the southeast hills.

**Please join us. Keep Our Park. Decline to sign the Oak Grove Referendum and Initiative.**

**Becky Dennis**, former City Council member  
**Sharrell Michelotti**, former City Council member  
**Bob Philcox**, former Mayor  
**Tom Pico**, former Mayor  
**Jerry Thorne**, City Council member  
**Kathy Narum**, Planning Commissioner  
**Arne Olson**, Planning Commissioner  
**Jennifer Pearce**, Planning Commissioner  
**Trish Maas**, former Planning Commissioner  
**Jim Dibiase**, Parks and Recreation Commissioner  
**Ted Kinzer**, Parks and Recreation Commissioner  
**Kurt Kummer**, Parks and Recreation Commissioner  
**Howard Neely**, former Parks & Rec Commissioner  
**Jerry Pentin**, Parks and Recreation Commissioner

**Herb Ritter**, Parks and Recreation Commissioner  
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**David Stark**, Housing Commissioner  
**Christine Steiner**, Alameda Co Housing Commissioner  
**Deb Wahl**, Trails Ad Hoc Committee  
**Tony Rivera**, Civic Arts Commissioner  
**Dick Quigley**, Zone 7 Director  
**Rich Cimino**, Audubon Society  
**Dan Faustina**, Pleasanton resident  
**Skip Hinsley**, local business owner  
**Ron Hyde**, retired Superior Court Judge  
**Otis Nostrand**, Pleasanton resident, business owner  
**Janice Phalen**, Pleasanton resident  
**Keith & Lisa Symons**, Kottinger Ranch residents

*Affiliations listed for identification purposes only, and do not necessarily indicate official agency positions.*

For more information, check out the 11/2/07 Editorial in the **Pleasanton Weekly**, or go our website  
[www.keepourpark.org](http://www.keepourpark.org)

## Water rate will increase by 8 percent

### Water crisis, conservation cited

You'll see a couple dollars tacked on to your next water bill after a local water wholesaler recently approved a rate increase.

The board of Zone 7 Water Agency, which sells drinking water to the city of Pleasanton, approved on Oct. 17 an 8 percent increase in the wholesale rate for treated water. About 80 percent of Pleasanton residents receive water that is sold to the city of Pleasanton by Zone 7. The increase will add \$2.13 per month to the wholesale component of a typical household water bill, according to Zone 7 spokeswoman Boni Brewer.

The board also approved a special 0.4 percent Delta water charge that will help the agency offset its projected financial losses caused

by a court-ordered reduction in water deliveries from the Delta.

The court order was imposed because the endangered Delta smelt, a small, silvery fish, were being sucked through the pumps.

The Delta charge will add 12 cents to a monthly household water bill. Overall bills are reduced for households that conserve water, Brewer added.

It's possible that with the Delta crisis still looming, the Zone 7 board could increase Delta rate based on supply and needs. It's also possible that if the crisis is alleviated, the rate could be eliminated or decreased. Any change would require a public hearing which the public could attend, Brewer said. Zone 7 receives 80 percent of its water supply through pumps from the Bay-Delta region.

According to the federal court

ruling, up to 30 percent of water pumped to various water agencies in Northern and Southern California must be reduced for at least one year. The time is expected to allow state and federal agencies develop short- and long-term plans to protect the Delta smelt.

While Zone 7 has stored groundwater, the agency asks residents to conserve by at least 10 percent.

"These are difficult times and we are trying to be prudent by balancing the speed at which we go through our reserve supplies, while managing the long-term financial costs and the impact on rates," said board President Bill Stevens.

In addition to drinking water rates, the board also approved a 24 percent increase in untreated water rates, which is provided primarily for agricultural uses.

—Janet Pelletier

## Vets

(continued from page 5)

Museum On Main, along with VFW District 14 Commander Gene Cota.

Serving as Grand Marshal of this year's parade was Rear Admiral Craig Bone, commander of the 11th Coast Guard District.

Highlighting the Coast Guard-led parade were two veterans from World War II: Elfie Larkin, 97, who was a radio operator in the Coast Guard from 1943-1945, and Barbara Eirls, who

served as a Lieutenant Junior Grade in the Coast Guard from 1944-46.

As every year, the parade featured a number of military vehicles and former and current service members. Veterans now in the Veterans Hospital in Livermore walked or wheeled in their wheelchairs, loudly cheered for by spectators lined along Main Street sidewalks.

Ending the parade on Main was a 25-foot Coast Guard Cutter from Vallejo, one of many WWII jeeps and other vehicles, including a

Swiss troop carrier, which joined the festivities.

A special ceremony followed the parade with a program at Veterans Plaza on Peters Avenue led by Joseph Stieber, commander of American Legion Post 237. Speakers included Admiral Bone, McNeerney, Hosterman and Wilson.

The Veteran's Day holiday will be observed next Monday, and schools, city offices and the post office will be closed.

—Jeb Bing

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## Axis Health picks its new director

Former Open Heart Kitchen head Carol Beddome named to position

by Janet Pelletier

As the former executive director of Open Heart Kitchen, Carol Beddome will have no trouble transitioning to leading another non-profit that helps the underprivileged.

Beddome, who was involved with Open Heart for the past two years, has taken the role of developmental director for Axis Community Health, which offers medical, mental health, substance abuse counseling and health education services to Tri-Valley residents.



Carol Beddome

“Over the past few years, Carol has become very well known and respected in the community and we feel very fortunate that she has chosen to come to Axis,” said Sue Compton, who has been named the agency’s CEO and who is the former development director. “We welcome her enthusiastically and anticipate attaining some important goals with her help.”

During the time she was director at OHK, Beddome increased the amount of hot meals served from 120,000 to 178,000 annually. The nonprofit was developed from a grassroots, start-up organization to one with three distinct operating businesses and an operating budget of \$500,000. She also reduced the overall cost of meal programs.

Axis serves 14,000 people per year through direct services and school- and community-based education, prevention and treatment programs. It has facilities in Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin. ■

## Library to celebrate children’s book art

Special donation of art made by former owner of Toad Hall Books

by Janet Pelletier

If you’ve lived in Pleasanton at least a decade and have a love of literature, you’ve most likely heard of Fern Skowlund and Toad Hall Books, an independent book store that closed a few years ago.

Skowlund, the book store’s former owner, recently donated a variety of children’s book art to the Pleasanton Library. The art work can currently be seen mounted on the walls in the children’s section.

At 7 p.m. on Nov. 15, the library will honor Skowlund for her generous gift as well as celebrate Children’s National Book Week.

“Fern had accumulated this artwork over those many years (Toad Hall Books was open) and recently donated to the Friends of the Library,” said John Mitchell, a children’s librarian. “They had it appraised and framed

here in the children’s area in the library and we thought it would be a good way to publicly thank her and give some recognition for that gift to us.”

The public, especially families with children, are invited to attend the special event, which will be attended by Skowlund.

The art is considered a prized possession for the library—worth an estimated \$50,000.

“She hosted many well-known and lesser-known children’s artists, illustrators and authors and in that time, she had been able to accumulate lots of work that they had produced—either their scenes from books that they would be known for...or their posters they created to say thank you to her for hosting them,” Mitchell said.

The library plans to display the art permanently.

The Pleasanton Library is located at 400 Old Bernal Ave. ■

Christmas Tree Lane presents

# CHRISTMAS ~ in the ~ VINEYARDS

Palm Event Center, Pleasanton

**SILENT NIGHT SOIRÉE**  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2007 • 6:30 - 11PM

- Sumptuous Sit-down Dinner
- Silent Auction of Exquisite Gift Baskets
- Live Entertainment

**SECOND TINSEL TEA ADDED ON FRIDAY FROM 2-4PM!**

“Almost High” Tea • Christmas Trees Preview • Silent Auction

**SILVER BELLS LUNCHEON ON SATURDAY FROM 10:30AM-1:30PM**

Gourmet Luncheon • Live Entertainment • Christmas Tree Drawings

For advance tickets, complete form and return with check, payable to: ValleyCare Foundation,  
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_____ Silent Night Soirée – \$75 per person	Name _____
_____ Silent Night Soirée – Table for Eight at \$600	_____
_____ Tinsel Tea – \$25 per person	Address _____
_____ Silver Bells Luncheon – \$85 per person	_____
_____ Silver Bells Luncheon – Table for 10 at \$850	_____
_____ Please charge <input type="checkbox"/> M/C <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Amex	_____
Card # _____ Exp. _____	Tel (W) _____
\$ _____	Tel (H) _____
Signature _____	Email _____



Proceeds will benefit ValleyCare’s Emergency Room Expansion Campaign and the ValleyCare Health Library and Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center.

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— Gold Shield Station —

# Save Pleasanton's Hills

## NO Ridgeline Mega-Mansions

The City Council approved building 12,500 sq. ft., 3-story, 45 ft tall mega-mansions on Pleasanton's southern hills. Is this what we want for our ridgelines? We all want trails, but at the expense of hundreds and hundreds of oak trees and the loss of the views of our hills?

"Local officials should start using zoning laws to keep residents from living in fire-prone areas." *CA Sen. Dianne Feinstein* We agree. The Oak Grove project and the rest of the southern Pleasanton hills are classified as high risk for wildland fires.

Some Council members said Oak Grove is a blueprint for the development of the Southeast Hills. If so, we **must** protect our hills! Support the signature drive to prohibit ridgeline developments in Pleasanton. **You can make a difference, volunteer to help!**

For more information, visit: [www.SavePleasantonsHills.com](http://www.SavePleasantonsHills.com) or  
**See us at the Farmer's Market on Saturday!**

### A Partial list of supporters:

Cindy McGovern  
Karla Brown  
Bill Rasnick  
Kay Ayala  
Allen Roberts  
Steve Brozosky  
Greg O'Connor  
Kris Weaver  
Kelly Cousins  
Pauline Schroeder  
Phil Stone  
Leslie Coonan

Tim Belcher  
Bruce Lesser  
Sue Benterou  
Anne Childs  
Joan Gissendaner  
Penny Nordin  
Rose Moen  
Ed Janas  
Julie Jennings  
Pam Grove  
Warren Straight  
Brian Arkin

Carolyn Lincoln  
Ed McGovern  
Russ Schmidt  
Marti Evans  
Sasson Rajabi  
Jim Benterou  
Alicia Sheehan  
AnneMarie Gallagher  
Kathleen Lesser  
Mary Roberts  
Sue Janas  
Nancy Wilson

Tom Gallagher  
Rick Bentley  
Bob Grove  
Don Norcross  
Anne Fox  
James Dillon  
Lee Fulton  
Julie Rasnick  
Ajay Dhillion  
Dan Ayala  
Patti Norcross  
Teresa Oliver-Merrill

Bill Lincoln  
Doug McEtchin  
June Thompson  
Carolyn Newton  
Valerie Arkin  
Doug Jennings  
Michelle LaMarche  
Terri Maxoutopoulos  
Karen Dauskurdas  
Sharon Pilarski  
Kayla Mueller  
Gail Olney

This ad paid for by concerned residents of Pleasanton

## City names new PR manager

*Pleasanton resident Joanne Hall worked in similar role for Oakland*

by Gina Channell-Allen

Joanne Hall has been named the community relations manager/public information officer for the city of Pleasanton.

Hall, a Pleasanton resident, has an extensive background in public relations work and journalism. With a bachelor's degree in journalism from California State University, she worked as a newswriter/announcer at KCBS/KRQR radio and served as the public information officer for the city of Oakland for nine years. She most recently worked as a public relations consultant with clients such as Stoneridge Shopping Center, Sunvalley Mall in Concord, the San Francisco Zoo and Chabot-Las Positas Community College District.

In the Pleasanton position, which is new to the city, Hall will administer the city's marketing, public information and media communications programs by writing and dis-

tributing press releases and maintaining the city's website and other related duties. The plan is to also revive the community newsletter.

"The primary responsibility is communicating all the activities the city is involved in," said Pamela Ott, Pleasanton's economic development director. "There are a lot of opportunities for Pleasanton to connect with our residents."

Until the new community relations manager/public information officer position was established, Ott handled the dual role of economic development director and public information officer for three years.

Hall was interested in the position because it so closely matches her background and interests.

"Working for a city has had the most texture," Hall said of her previous positions. "You have everything—infrastructure, finance, parks, youth, seniors. You have

everything. You never get bored. Cities are always evolving."

Hall also has a connection to Pleasanton. She and her husband, Tom, have lived in Pleasanton for 14 years. Tom Hall teaches physics at Amador Valley High School, where he was Pleasanton's Teacher of the Year in 1999. They have two sons, Alex, an Amador Valley graduate who is majoring in pre-pharmacy at University of the Pacific in Stockton, and Stefan, a freshman at Amador. Stefan also serves on the city's youth commission.

"From the perspective of a resident, I have always been very impressed with the city of Pleasanton, which seeks community input, works collaboratively, and facilitates efficiently," Hall said. "I'm very flattered to have been selected to join that effort in this new position."

Hall can be reached at 931-5044 or at jhall@ci.pleasanton.ca.us. ■

## Goodguys concert benefits Iraq vets

*Country concert featuring 12 wounded vets from Walter Reed*

by Janet Pelletier

The Goodguys Rod and Custom Association is known to all for their gigantic car shows held four times a year at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. But they will add a twist to the car show this weekend (the Goodguys 18th Autumn Get-Together) with a country music concert that benefits wounded Iraq War veterans.

The timing of the event coincides with the Veteran's Day weekend. The Veteran's Day holiday is Monday. The concert will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. tomorrow at the fairgrounds' amphitheater, featuring performances from Nashville recording artists "Waycross" and singer/songwriter Ray Stephenson.

With purchase of admission to

the car show, the concert is free. At the event, Goodguys will host 12 critically wounded veterans from Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

Attendees will have the opportunity to donate money to soldiers through Operation Second Chance, a nonprofit organization dedicated to outfitting the homes of critically wounded soldiers, according to John Drummond of Goodguys. The Pleasanton event is part of the Soldier's Second Chance Tour that includes activities involving the 12 wounded soldiers in the Bay Area.

Admission to the car show is \$13 for adults and \$6 for children. For more information on Operation Second Chance, visit [www.operationsecondchance.org](http://www.operationsecondchance.org). For tickets, visit [www.goodguys.com](http://www.goodguys.com). ■



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 email [soereq@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:soereq@stmarys-ca.edu)



## Oak Grove

(continued from page 5)

"More people will be looking at the ridges (those homes will be on) than walking them," she added. "I don't want this to be my legacy 10 or 20 years from now when people look up and see those homes and think that I was a part of that."

McGovern also has put her name on the opposition's petition to gain signatures to qualify a referendum for a public vote. The referendum, advanced by former Councilwoman Kay Ayala, claims that Oak Grove will include three-story, 45-foot-tall, and 12,500-square-foot homes that she calls "mega-mansions." Others who have signed the anti-Oak Grove petition include school board member and former councilman Steve Brozosky, Planning Commission Chairwoman Anne Fox and Karla Brown-Belcher, vice president of the Kottinger Ranch Homeowners Association.

The group, which plans to seek as many as 4,000 signatures to meet the requirement of 10 percent of the number of voters who cast ballots in last November's municipal election, will have teams in place at the Farmers' Market tomorrow. They have 30 days from 12:01 a.m. Wednesday to collect the signatures from Pleasanton registered voters. If their petition is qualified by the Alameda County Registrar of Voters, the referendum to overturn the Oak Grove approval would likely appear on the election primary ballot next June.

Those favoring the Oak Grove project also launched their own campaign Wednesday, asking regis-

tered voters not to sign the opposition's petition. Organized as "Keep Our Park," the group is headed by local businessman Jerry Pentin, who also serves on the city's Parks and Recreation Commission. The list of supporters of the "do not sign" efforts includes former mayors Tom Pico and Bob Philcox, Councilman Jerry Thorne, and former Councilwomen Becky Dennis and Sharrell Michelotti.

"We had a process where we spent 3-1/2 yrs where we worked with neighbors, the city, developers and others," said Councilman Matt Sullivan in voting to approve the Oak Grove project. "This will create tremendous amenities for the community with good protections. I think we have controls in place to minimize or reduce these houses from being in sight from most in city."

"I know that not everyone agrees and I support the right of citizens to call for a referendum to overturn the City Council's decision," he added. "I've done it myself. The rhetoric is already flying. The only thing I ask is that both sides present their information accurately."

Tuesday night's action was actually the second time a Pleasanton City Council has approved a development in the Kottinger Hills. In 1992, a council approved plans by the Lin family to build more than 100 homes along with an 18-hole championship golf course. Homeowners in Kottinger Ranch, which had just been built by the Lins, objected to the potential traffic problems and were successful in overturning that decision in a referendum in 1993.

Two years ago, the Lin family submitted a revised development

plan for their property, this time for 98 homes but without a golf course. Aware of strong opposition again, their representatives James Tong and Marty Inderbitzen initiated a series of meetings with the neighborhood, city officials and others in the public, eventually reaching a compromise which the Lins accepted to reduce the number of homes to 51, although much larger ones than originally planned, and to give the 496 acres to the city.

In reaching the compromise, advocates of the compromise plan noted that it would help Hosterman and Sullivan in their quest for similar developer agreements so that a 2,000-acre swath of open space could be created along the southeast hills of the city—from the Callippe Preserve Golf Course to Shadows Cliffs Regional Park—that would restrict additional housing developments at the city's edge.

For more information on the advantages and drawbacks to the development, visit two citizen's groups' Web sites: [www.keepour-park.org](http://www.keepour-park.org) and [www.savepleasanton-hills.com](http://www.savepleasanton-hills.com). ■

## Take Us Along



### Crystal clear Weekly

Could the weather have been any more beautiful for the Weekly from the looks of this picture? Here, Steve and Paula Evans take time out of their trip to French Polynesia that consisted of snorkeling with stingrays among other activities to read the paper.

## Mayor

(continued from page 5)

The Friends group gave tours to City Council members and won the support of former Mayor Tom Pico and current Mayor Jennifer Hosterman. After assessing the situation, they agreed, and the restoration of Kottinger Creek was under way.

"It was a really great lesson in the value of democracy and the ability of people to affect that," Puls said. "We wanted Kottinger Creek to be something we felt we would be happy with and proud of, and in turn, the city of Pleasanton would be proud to have," Mincks added.

The project included a complete new irrigation system for the park and creek to maintain the plants, removal of invasive species and planting new native plants and trees. Also added were a small foot bridge and other small amenities such as a picnic area, clean-up area and an access ramp that allows handicapped access.

The restoration met much opposition when the projected cost went from \$30,000, the city's original cost of maintenance, to the full project cost of \$1.3 million.

Parks and Recreation Commissioner Jerry Pentin said:

"Our biggest concern was the escalating price. I'm sure for the residents that use that park, it will be a great amenity and a great improvement. Absolutely repairing the stream to its natural state is wonderful."

The Mayor's Award was initiated by the late Bob Reid, who presented it to William Herlihy in 1971 for his work in securing property from the federal government that is now our Sports Park. Through the years, the award has gone to individuals for their exemplary work in the nonprofit and the unpaid public sector.

Not all recipients got their award for late night meetings on one of the commissions. Joe Callahan and Mark Sweeney were honored for their "contribution" in building Hacienda Business Park. In 2000, retiring Mayor Ben Tarver gave the Mayor's Award to Councilman Tom Pico, the only sitting council member to ever receive the award, and a move that generated some grumbling back then. In 2004, Pico again broke with tradition and gave his award to the Cultural Arts Council instead of to an individual.

In her three years as mayor, Hosterman has continued those kinds of choices, including Monday's award to the Friends of Kottinger Creek.

—Jeb Bing

# OUR WORLD CLASS PHYSICIAN STAFF CONTINUES TO GROW

## PLEASE JOIN VALLEYCARE HEALTH SYSTEM IN WELCOMING:



### AARON SALYAPONGSE, M.D. ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

Dr. Aaron Salyapongse has joined ValleyCare Health System specializing in orthopedic surgery and major joint replacement.

Dr. Salyapongse received his medical degree from the St. Louis University School of Medicine where he graduated with honors. He completed his internship and residency in orthopedic surgery at St. Mary's Medical Center in San Francisco. He completed a Total Joint Replacement Fellowship at the New England Baptist Hospital in Boston, where he studied tissue preserving hip replacement, computer-assisted surgery, and complex hip and knee reconstructions. He specializes in utilizing minimally invasive techniques, promoting accelerated rehabilitation protocols, and providing comprehensive care for those who have already had their joints replaced.

Dr. Salyapongse has joined the Webster Orthopaedic Medical Group in their Pleasanton office, 5555 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite 400, Pleasanton. For an appointment, please call 925-463-3400.



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**WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES**

**Planning Commission**

Wednesday, November 14, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- **PCUP 202, Tri-Valley Courier**  
Application for a conditional use permit to operate a courier business at 3687 Old Santa Rita Road, Suite 203.
- **PCUP 203, Big Valley, LP**  
Application for a conditional use permit to allow piano and guitar instruction Monday through Friday from 3:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., including private lessons and classes for two to four students, located at 1258 Quarry Lane, Suite H, in the Valley Business Park.
- **PDR 692, Cedar Funding, Inc.**  
Application for design review approval to construct an approximately 10,000 square foot commercial building to be located at 3 Wyoming Street.
- **PCUP 196, Rachelle Nguyen**  
Application for a conditional use permit to operate an indoor recreation facility for up to 40 children at the property located at 7071 7073 Commerce Circle.
- **PAP 109 (PHUP 18), Rebecca Andrus**  
Appeal of the Zoning Administrator's denial of an application for a non exempt home occupation for wedding dress sales at the existing residence located at 3463 Windsor Court.
- **PUD 32, Daniel and Belinda Sarich**  
Application for Planned Unit Development (PUD) development plan approval to subdivide an approximately 20 acre site into two single family residential lots: (1) an approximately one acre parcel which would include the existing residence and a new detached two car garage; and (2) an approximately 19 acre parcel which would include: (a) an approximately 9,990 square foot, two story home with a 3,150 square foot habitable basement with second unit; (b) a 1,785 square foot five car attached garage; (c) a 660 square foot cabana; (d) a 165 square foot pool bathroom; and (e) a 165 square foot greenhouse. The property is located at 5 Tuscany Place (formerly 1630 Vineyard Avenue), in the Vineyard Avenue Corridor Specific Plan Area.

**Housing Commission Meeting**

- The November 15, 2007 Housing Commission meeting has been cancelled. The next Housing Commission meeting will be held on December 20, 2007.

**Economic Vitality Committee**

Thursday, November 15, 2007 @ 7:30 a.m.  
Operations Service Center, 3333 Busch Road

- Review of Permit Streamlining Process Recommendations Report
- Update regarding changes to the City's Building Code
- Review of Economic Vitality Committee Membership Categories

**Youth Commission**

Wednesday, November 14, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

- Discussion regarding the book "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens," by Sean Covey

**Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee**

- The November 12, 2007 Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee meeting has been cancelled. The next scheduled meeting will be held on December 10, 2007.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Employment Opportunity**

Building Attendants (part-time, temporary)  
(Payroll Title: Recreation Program Assistant)  
\$11.15 hour to start - Open Until Filled

The Facility Rental Program seeks part-time Recreation Program Assistants to work as Building Attendants at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Boulevard and the Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main Street.

**The Position:** Under direction from the Community Services Manager, the Building Attendants assist with room preparation at designated facilities for renters, serve as the City contact during facility use after regular business hours, and monitor activities of renters, their guests, and other facility users for compliance with facility, health, and safety rules and regulations.

Attendants will work flexible schedules, which will include weeknights and weekends, and is dependent on the number of facility rentals, classes, and meetings that are booked.

These are part-time, temporary positions, and cannot work more than 1,000 hours per fiscal year. They do not offer benefits, but do contribute to Social Security and Medicare. CPR and First Aid certification are required.

If you are interested in this position or would like additional information please contact the Human Resources department at (925) 931-5048 or visit our website at <http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/employment/opportunities/>

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

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

# Community Pulse

## Police Bulletin

### 59-year-old man shot in attempted carjacking

A 59-year-old Pleasanton man was shot after he refused to give a gunman his car keys, according to police.

The incident occurred at 10:30 p.m. Nov. 1 on Paragon Circle in Laguna Oaks, where the man was coming home and getting out of his car in the garage.

The suspect confronted the man with a shotgun and demanded the car keys, according to police. The victim tried to hide behind a cabinet in the garage and threw objects at the suspect in an attempt to scare him away, Sgt. Mike Tryphonas said.

The suspect then shot the man, injuring him in the

forearm. The victim was taken to a local hospital where he's listed in stable condition, Tryphonas said.

Police officers arrived at the house within minutes of the confrontation, but were unable to find the suspect, police said.

The suspect is described as white male with a darker complexion, approximately 25 years old, 5-foot 10-inches tall, 150-160 pounds and dark eyes. He was last seen fleeing the scene on foot, wearing a dark jacket and black or dark gray hat/beanie.

Anyone with information is asked to call Sgt. Jim Knox at 931-5100.



## Police Report

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

**Oct. 29**

- Theft:
  - 3:31 p.m. in the 3900 block of Old Santa Rita Road; stolen vehicle
- Vehicular burglary:
  - 7:08 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road
- Public drunkenness:
  - 12:40 a.m. in the 4200 block of Hopyard Road
  - 12:56 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and South Valley Trails Drive

**Oct. 30**

- Theft:
  - 12:22 a.m. in the 600 block of Varese Court; petty theft

- 9:03 a.m. in the 4900 block of Muirwood Drive; petty theft
- 9:38 a.m. in the 3600 block of South Gettysburg Court; identity theft
- 2:30 p.m. in the 5400 block of Corte Paloma; grand theft
- 3:23 p.m. in the 1000 block of Malaga Court; identity theft
- Vandalism:
  - 11:55 a.m. in the 100 block of Spring Street; worth less than \$400
- Mental health danger:
  - 12:40 a.m. in the 4800 block of Harrison Street
- Sexual battery:
  - 12:40 a.m. in the 4800 block of Harrison Street

**Oct. 31**

- Theft:
  - 2:02 p.m. in the 11500 block of

- Dublin Canyon Road; embezzlement
  - 3:03 p.m. in the 3400 block of Stanley Boulevard; grand theft
  - Vandalism:
    - 5:34 p.m. in the 3200 block of Vineyard Avenue
  - Mental health danger:
    - 9:30 a.m. in the 4200 block of Katie Lane
- Nov. 1**
- Theft:
    - 8:22 a.m. in the 2500 block of Via Espada; petty theft
    - 8:24 a.m. in the 2500 block of Via Espada; grand theft
    - 8:24 a.m. in the 2300 block of Corte de la Jara; grand theft
    - 9:30 a.m. in the 2200 block of Corte Brazos; grand theft
    - 10:20 a.m. in the 2500 block of Via Espada; petty theft
    - 1:00 p.m. in the 4100 block of Mohr Avenue; grand theft
    - 2:31 p.m. in the 4900 block of Treewood Court; identity theft
    - 3:50 p.m. in the 2100 block of Camino Brazos; grand theft

- Vandalism:
  - 9:25 a.m. in the 3900 block of Churchill Drive
- Burglary:
  - 7:18 a.m. in the 5900 block of Black Avenue; vehicular
  - 8:13 a.m. in the 2200 block of Camino Brazos; vehicular
  - 8:16 a.m. in the 2200 block of Via Espada
  - 9:00 a.m. in the 2200 block of Via Espada
- Drug/alcohol violations:
  - 1:57 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
  - 5:02 p.m. at the intersection of Peters and Rose avenues; DUI, under the influence of a controlled substance
- Assault:
  - 2:15 a.m. in the 400 block of Abbie Street; assault
- Mental health danger:
  - 12:26 a.m. in the 1200 block of Concord Street

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# Transitions

## Weddings



### Melanie Meinert and Victor Pereira

Melanie Elaine Meinert and Victor Moniz Pereira were married Sept. 22 at the Pleasanton Hotel, where a reception followed.

The bride is the daughter of Bruce and Jerilyn Meinert of Pleasanton. Melanie was a 1991 graduate of Amador Valley High School. She attended Las Positas Community College and Mesa Community College in San Diego. She is a stay-at-home mom and part time caregiver at Quail Garden Assisted Living Facility in Livermore.

The groom is the son of Tony and Marta Pereira of Merced. Victor graduated from California High School in San Ramon in 1992. He attended Diablo Valley College. He is employed as a licensed general contractor for VP Construction in Tracy.

Their intimate wedding party consisted of: Melanie's sister Heather Everhart as matron of honor and niece Ellie Everhart as flower girl. Standing for Victor was his brother Philip Pereira as best man and Melanie's brother Justin Meinert as groomsman. Victor and Melanie's sons, Christian and

Cameron, were the junior groomsmen and ring bearers. Melanie's uncle Bob Bassett married them.

The couple honeymooned with their sons in Disneyland. They live in Tracy.



### Amory Foreman and Martin Gutierrez

Amory Trace Foreman and Martin Brindley Gutierrez were married Sept. 8 at her grandparents' back yard in Escalon.

Amory is the daughter of Rhonda and Perry Foreman of Concord. She graduated from Mt. Diablo High School in Concord in 1998 and received a bachelor's degree from Cal State University East Bay in June 2007. She is employed as the office manager at the Danville Weekly.

Martin is the son of Hilda and Alfred Gutierrez of Mission Viejo. He graduated from Santa Teresa High in San Jose in 1995, and is employed as a salesman at Video Only in Dublin.

The couple honeymooned on a cruise to Mexico and are making their home in Pleasanton.

## N.E.A.T Award

Neighborhood Environment Attractiveness Team



This quarter's N.E.A.T. award goes to Railroad Square at 55 W. Angela St. Owner Mitch Perrera has built a unique two story building with attention to landscaping, architectural design and outdoor dining. The building houses both retail and restaurant businesses. The tenants in this building are: Stork's Nest, Amelia's Deli and Bistro, Retro Martini and Poetry on Canvas. These businesses are all new to downtown Pleasanton so stop by and give them a warm welcome.

*The "NEAT" Neighborhood Environment Attractiveness Team award is designed to highlight a particular downtown building or property that has been improved or that is considered unique in design, architecture or style.*



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## Engagement

### Erin Grady and Daniel Buck

Erin Elizabeth Grady, daughter of Steve and Carol Grady of San Jose, and Daniel Howard Buck, son of David and Marsha Buck of Chandler, Ariz., formerly of Pleasanton, have announced their engagement.

Erin is a 1997 graduate of Mt. Pleasant High School in San Jose, and is currently finishing her studies at Cal State University, Long Beach. Daniel is a 1994 graduate of Foothill High School and a 1998 gradu-



ate of Oregon State University. He is a sales representative for Tree Island Industries, LTD., based in Vancouver, B.C.

Erin and Dan reside in Long Beach, Calif. and are planning a July 2008 wedding in San Jose.

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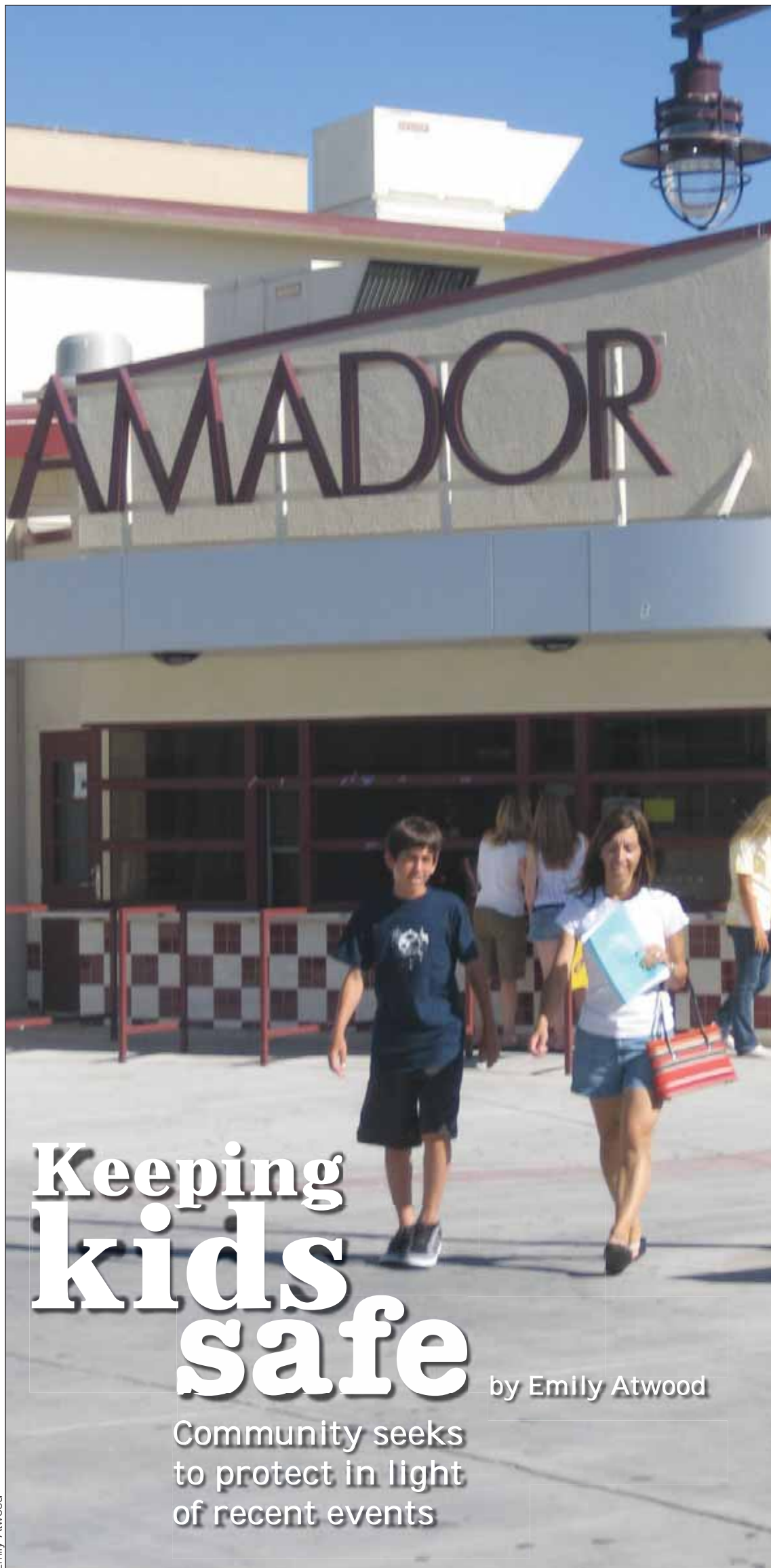
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# Keeping kids safe

by Emily Atwood

Community seeks to protect in light of recent events

Emily Atwood

Earlier this year a mother and son walk through Amador's campus during registration. Parents say they still think campuses in the district are safe places.

While things seem rosy in a high-achieving district in this affluent city, school counselors and administrators are quick to say that not all are free of problems.

"Our kids have immense pressures," said Amador Valley School Vice Principal Rhea Brandon, adding that even in an increasingly wealthy and highly educated community has its unique issues.

Some of the pressures Brandon sees are bullying, a strong contrast between the haves and have-nots, prescription drug abuse, and emotional absence between working parents and students.

Recent events have added to the pressure. In the month of October alone, the district dealt with three teen deaths, one from an alcohol-related crash and the others from alleged suicides. A girl also broke her leg after being hit by a car on her way to school, there were a couple of kidnap scares and a weapon threat locked down Amador's campus.

These events led parents to wonder about the safety of their kids in seemingly more dangerous times.

"Schools are still safe places," Superintendent John Casey said.

Casey and others say that even with these problems facing students today, this generation isn't worse off than before.

"I think there's a tendency for all prior generations to come to those conclusions," he said. "Kids are testing the limits and are seen by some to be less responsible. But when I go on campus and talk with students, I see what they strive to be. They are taking classes more difficult than when I was in school and seem very responsible and goal-oriented."

In terms of expulsions, Kevin Johnson, senior director of pupil services, said he doesn't see an upward trend since 2000.

"On average, there have been 31 expulsions a year with a low of 18 during the 2006-07 school year," he said.

Officials responding to the mental health of students and the safety concerns in a lockdown situation said they are learning from these and other events to better protect students.

## Helping the whole child

School counselors are no longer on campus for just academic advice, but they are prepared for everything from grades to depression to abuse at home. Using a holistic approach, Brandon says counselors must now prepare for age-old problems like bullying and competition in the newest forms: skewed and impersonal online identities, the use of harsh language toward each other, talking about drugs and sex like it's no big deal, and constantly battling to be in the top of the academic rankings.

With the addition of counselors last year, the ratio is down to about 425 students per counselor and the district hopes for that ratio to be reduced even further to 350-to-1 in the future.

This change has made a huge difference, according to Sheryl Pacheco, Amador's head counselor. They now have the ability to spend more time with the students and also be proactive in meeting their needs, which can mean quickly addressing problems. It's especially helpful in times of crisis, she said, as they are building upon established relationships and more counselors can come to aid in tragic circumstances.

Susan Shanker, head counselor at Foothill High School, said the improved connection means students are more likely to meet with counselors. The biggest complaint among students is stress and time management. Groups have formed on campus where she said hundreds of kids go to work out these issues.

Ed Arndt, psychologist at Foothill, agreed

that a familiarity with the student body is key in knowing how to help them. "It's about being psychologically wise of the situation," Arndt said he doesn't see it.

"It's fairly consistent in the number of kids who are hospitalized or repeated," he said. "I've seen a tremendous amount of how they have responded."

In addition to counseling, school counselors the district have reached out to parents through assemblies, town hall meetings, and an anonymous student support tip line.

The tip line is set up at 415-937-2222, the district's Personal Development Center, originally planned to have in place by the end of the year.

"The line will have pupil services staff working it every morning and afternoon," Johnson said.

"We want to give a heads-up regarding mental health, we can direct calls to the appropriate resources in order to assist students," he said.

Shari Schanen, a parent of a 2006 graduate, said her child had access to resources already in place on campus, such as counselors and school resource officers who work as a liaison between students and school administrators. "My daughter had issues with her child arose, she was a great to work with."

"What I'm really concerned about is these kids' mental health," she said. "I don't want to think these kids think they're the only one with it."

Victoria Glenn, a parent of a fifth-grader, thinks kids are having a lot faster and may be acting out more due to pressure.

"It's a lot for them," she said. "We want to be the best. It's too much knowledge and it's hard for them to get it all. They're going a little crazy."

Overall, Schanen and Glenn are confident with the safety and wellbeing of students at Pleasanton schools.

## Emergency preparedness

A weapons threat led to the lockdown of Amador Valley High campus in October. The district investigated the threat, found it was a false alarm and the lockdown was lifted. A previous lockdown occurred in 2005, a few years ago with a bomb threat. In other instances of school violence, the district has led police and the district to take threat seriously.

The Pleasanton Police Department works closely with the district in emergency situations at the schools.

"We always look to err on the side of caution," Capt. Eric Finn said. "The difficulty is that it takes time to respond to a threat truthfully going on or perhaps waiting for a threat to pass."

When asked to pinpoint emergency procedures, both Finn and Superintendent Arndt said it's difficult because incidences are rare. With the rise of school shootings, the district has added intruder drills.

"From all the incidents that we've seen in the country, it's almost impossible to prepare for every single situation," Finn said. "The mental health behind a lockdown or a weapons threat to lockdown the campus, sheltering in place, and

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and isolate what we would consider to be the threat.

"We consistently do training with the school district," he continued. "School administration and personnel from the department evaluate and look at it from a learning standpoint to improve and keep the campuses as safe as possible."

One tactic that has changed after learning from other incidents is the involvement of the police.

"In an active shooter situation a team of officers goes in to neutralize the threat until the shooting is stopped and isolated," Finn said. "We no longer wait on the sidelines to make sure the SWAT team comes. We're going to assemble, respond and deal with the threat."

"Students need to know that they have many people on campus who are interested in their safety and the police department is absolutely invested in making sure campuses are safe," he added. "We're willing to risk our lives and make sure that is the case."

To ensure the safety of the students, police ask that everyone comply and allow them to do their jobs—this includes parents. Text messages to parents should have correct information and convey that they are safe.

"If we have parents coming to campus, we're not going to be effective because we can't respond to the scene," Finn said.

Even with the rarity of these events, Schanen said as a parent, she is still concerned about these types of emergencies.

"You don't want to think so, but it could happen here," she said. "Especially when you see it happening in other areas, it could happen in our schools."

Glenn said she doesn't think about a shooting happening in Pleasanton and is grateful for the lockdown situations no matter how small the threat.

When it comes to dealing with an emergency situation, Finn said it's important that the students and parents act in a way that wouldn't distract from ensuring safety.

The district has also changed how students are given information after the recent lockdown, which left many students questioning what was going on. Casey said that with the announcements of the suicides, teachers were given a statement to read to the class, whereas before teachers were given information and it was up to their discretion to share it.

## Banding together

The school district—along with Unite for Life, Hope Hospice and Axis Community Health—is hosting a town hall meeting Saturday, Nov. 10, at the Amador library to address the recent deaths and mental health of students. As of now, this is the first of two town hall meetings on this topic, but it joins another once-a-semester meeting put on by police about teen driving safety.

The entire community is welcome to attend these meetings to have the opportunity to interact with knowledgeable people and receive resources to deal with the issues.

Results from the California Healthy Kids Survey and the Tri-Valley Adolescent Health Initiative showed what the district considered to be alarming statistics about Pleasanton teen behavior. The district published those statistics and held a couple of town hall meetings in partnership with nearby agencies in an effort to "start the conversation" between parents and students. This school year, similar forums will be held as the district hopes the conversation will continue.

While it's hard for anyone to know for certain whether these conversations have happened, Casey said there's no excuse for not knowing about the at-risk behaviors students are engaging in.

Glenn said she already has open communication with her fifth-grader and plans to continue that when he enters middle school next year.

"It helps if the school talks about [at-risk behaviors]," she said. "It opens up the flood gates. But it's the parents' responsibility to be talking with kids about that."

Casey continued to say that helping these

students is about balancing between simple and overbearing motivation—and everyone needs to pay attention to how students are dealing with these pressures.

"We can have teachers and administrators watch for bullying," he said, "but that needs to start at home in order for it to ever be reduced. Talk with students and they will listen and respond. It takes the school, parents, places of worship, even the Chamber of Commerce to encourage them to work their way through it."

Glenn and Schanen agree that much of the responsibility falls on the parents.

In response to these issues, Casey wants people to know that they take them very seriously.

"Sometimes we talk about all the things we're doing and all the successes we have and sometimes people believe that we're not being real to the challenges our kids face," he said. "I always try to portray a more balanced presentation. Our challenges are much of what we talk about—students engaging in at-risk behaviors. They face a lot of stress and we need to pay attention to that."

Getting back to the idea of caring for the whole child, Foothill Principal John Dwyer said programs are not the complete answer. Programs are important, he said, but they have a beginning and an end—and that's where relationships come into play.

"We have a variety of programs like 'Every 15 Minutes,' but we still have kids drinking and driving," he said.

He said it's about connecting with students and showing that they are cared for and loved.

But as Village High School Principal Greg Giglio adds, it's an age-old challenge with new clothes.

"Adults try to connect, but kids won't snitch," he said. "Adults forget that we used to think that way."

Even with difficulties, parents seem to feel that their children are safe and that the district is doing a good job.

"I love the school district," Glenn said. "That's why I'm here. I'm just more worried that [my son] will be influenced by someone. There's nothing the school can do about that." ■

## Warning signs of suicide

1. Sudden changes in behavior
2. Dramatic changes in appetite
3. Sleeping difficulties
4. Poor performance in school
5. Trouble concentrating; agitation; inability to sit still
6. Unexplained loss of energy or excessive fatigue
7. Loss of interest in friends
8. Increased drug/alcohol use
9. Constant feeling of worthlessness or self-hatred
10. Excessive risk-taking
11. Pre-occupation with death, dying or suicide
12. Giving away of personal or prized possessions

## Next town hall meeting

The community is invited to a town hall meeting addressing recent allegedly intentional teen deaths, scheduled from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 10, at the Amador Valley High School library, 1155 Santa Rita Road. The Pleasanton Unified School District joins with Unite for Life, Hope Hospice and Axis Community Health to provide suicide prevention resources.

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Circulation e-mail:

[circulation@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:circulation@PleasantonWeekly.com)

The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100 Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840.

Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407. The Pleasanton Weekly is mailed free upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. Voluntary subscriptions at \$30 per year (\$50 for two years) are welcome from Pleasanton residents.

Subscription rate for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$50 per year.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

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# Opinion

## Editorial

### Play ball! But when?

Legislators in Washington and Sacramento aren't the only ones looking at higher taxes or creative ways of raising revenue to finance new projects and services. Even fiscally-prudent Pleasanton has a shortfall in the magnitude of millions of dollars when it comes to paying for all that's planned for the Bernal property. Bernal is a 520-acre parcel that extends southeast and southwest from the Bernal Avenue-I-680 interchange. It was acquired by Greenbriar Homes and associates from its longtime owner, the city of San Francisco, in 2000 for \$129 million. In exchange for permits to build 581 apartment homes and apartments on the property, which are now mostly completed, Greenbriar gave 318 acres of the land to the city of Pleasanton free of charge for public uses. At the time, sports enthusiasts expected work to start within a year or two on the 50 acres dedicated in the land swap as a community park (a.k.a. sports park). Last year, carrying the hopes for Bernal a step farther, voters approved Measure P, a conceptual plan for trails, botanical gardens, a working 4-H Club farm, and buildings to house a civic arts center and teen and community centers.

The problem, as reported to the City Council Tuesday by Emily Wagner, the city's economic development fiscal officer, is that there's little money to pay for most of the proposed development. Moreover, a survey by consultants of a random sampling of homeowners shows that few are willing to tax themselves to pay the \$129 million needed to build out the property. Tom Pico, when he was mayor, said six years ago in accepting the deed to the public part of Bernal from Greenbriar that it could take years to develop the land and it was likely the project might be done by the time his grandchildren are adults. Better add another generation or two to that projection, Tom, because Wagner's look at estimated costs puts much of the development out of reach of current municipal revenue expectations by a wide margin. Besides, those who voted for Measure P and celebrated the promise of more sports fields probably don't want to wait until 2030 or well beyond before any of these major capital projects can be funded.

So to speed things up, Wagner looked at higher taxes, both direct and indirect, to bolster the funding gap. First is a proposed increase in the transient occupancy tax (TOT) which hotels charge their customers. Hotel guests are now charged an extra 8 percent on their room bills, proceeds that go to Pleasanton. The tax was last raised in 1983 from 5 percent. The proceeds from this tax currently total \$3.6 million annually, or 3.5 percent of the total General Fund revenues. By increasing the TOT to 12 percent, the higher tax would generate \$1.8 million of additional monies that could be earmarked for Bernal. The higher tax would have to be approved by a simple majority of voters. Higher developer fees also are suggested, which now cost builders \$3,947 per single family home. An upward adjustment in those fees could raise as much as \$21 million more over the next 23 years.

Then it gets tougher with voter resistance stiffening as suggested new revenue sources are contemplated. General obligation bonds could be issued to more quickly pay for Bernal projects, but Wagner points out there's a "major disadvantage": These bonds require a two-thirds majority approval "and the inequities created by Proposition 13 on the assessed valuations" (her words, not ours) limit the return. Certificates of Participation, another subset of the general financing technique, could also provide more up-front money for Bernal projects, but they also are typically paid with excess city funds, which Pleasanton has now but can't count on as the city reaches buildout. A parcel tax might work better in that every homeowner pays the same, but again a super majority 67 percent vote approval would be required. Fortunately, there's enough money already set aside for two lighted baseball fields and an unlighted practice field at a corner of the 50-acre community park, a project that, alone, will cost \$8.8 million. A contract was awarded Tuesday to Valley Crest Landscape Development for the work, with these sports fields scheduled to be completed by spring, 2008. It could be a while before we see much more. ■

# Letters

## Leaf blowers on Main Street a nuisance

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my extreme displeasure with the noise routinely produced by leaf blowers and street sweepers during the late-night hours on Main Street.

The team of leaf blowers regularly appears between the hours of 10 p.m. and midnight at least twice weekly, usually Tuesday and Wednesday nights, shortly followed by street sweepers. It is incomprehensible that this takes place at such a late hour, let alone consecutive nights. If the work must be done at this time, when the streets are least occupied, can brooms not be used? Leaf blowers are notorious for producing a terrible amount of noise and air pollution, both of which pose more danger than leaves on our sidewalks.

I understand the desire to maintain the aesthetic appeal of Main Street, but the noise produced is unbearable. The residents of downtown Pleasanton deserve better. Please put a stop to this!

Jay Dickason  
Pleasanton

## Halloween vandalism unnecessary

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to tell the teenagers of Pleasanton that there are better ways to spend your Halloween night than vandalizing people's property. I know, we should have thrown away our pumpkins right at 9 p.m. Halloween night, as to not tempt their pea-sized brains into throwing them in the street. And, I guess I'm even okay with them stealing the pumpkins and shattering them into smithierines, however, I am not okay with finding my garden statuary destroyed in the middle of our court this morning after Halloween.

Our community needs to wake up and start paying attention to the hoodlums that are doing destructive things like this. Is anybody paying attention to what their kids are up to? Is there any supervision once they turn 16? I am really disappointed this morning. Thanks to whoever it was that felt the need to destroy something of mine to make themselves feel almighty and powerful. I know bad karma is coming your way. I hope you are prepared when it hits you.

Randy Hill  
Pleasanton

## Show support for bands Nov. 13 at Amador

Dear Editor,

The entire community has a wonderful opportunity to show enthusiastic support for the two award-winning marching bands

from the Pleasanton Unified School District. On Tuesday, Nov. 13, both the Amador Valley High School Marching Band and Colorguard and the Foothill High School Marching Band will present their field shows in a new event called the Family and Friends Performance, planned by AFM (Amador Friends of Music) parents as a farewell, encore performance for the Amador Marching Dons, who will soon depart for the Western Band Association (WBA) championships.

This is a great way to celebrate both bands, providing families of young children an exciting introduction to the excellent music programs in the district. I hope all band families, friends, alumni and community leaders will come to enjoy the performances of both bands and wish Amador well on their way to championships and wish Foothill continued success in their season.

The performance is free and begins at 6:30 p.m. in the AVHS stadium.

Marilyn Palowitch  
Pleasanton

## Child hit by car sad, but not surprising

Dear Editor,

On Friday, Oct. 26, a Pleasanton Middle School student was struck by an automobile while crossing in front of Hearst Elementary around 8:20 a.m. According to witnesses, the student crossed the street without the aid of the crossing guard and was subsequently hit and broke her leg. This incident is unfortunate, yet not surprising. With students at both schools, I regularly witness driving violations being made daily by parents.

Illegal U-turns, double parking, ignoring crosswalks, parking at red marked areas, speeding through lights and the roundabouts are just a few of the violations.

Both schools have crossing guards to help safely assist students but who is policing the parents? We need police surveillance in the areas around the schools between 7:45 and 8:45 a.m. If the police would actively ticket all offenders and monitor the situation, maybe people would begin to pay attention to the traffic signs again. The Pleasanton police may be the only solution to this dangerous problem. We need help to eradicate the hazardous traffic issues for the walkers, bikers and drivers before there are more injuries.

Stacey Gustafson  
Pleasanton

## Hosterman, Sullivan use parade for politics

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and Council Member Matt Sullivan wasted no time in using Sunday's

(continued on page 18)

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# Talking Points

by Gina Channell-Allen



## Minimizing harm, maximizing positive consequences

There are times when two principles of ethical journalism work directly against each other.

The primary responsibility of a journalist is to seek the truth and report it. It is a journalist's duty to gather information and present it to the public. The second principle of ethical journalism is to minimize harm. Journalists are to treat sources and subjects with the utmost respect.

An unfortunate example of how these two principles do not always align happened last week when we reported on the deaths of two local teens.

When and how to report on deaths, particularly suicides and especially when large numbers of people are affected, is a dilemma journalists pray they never have to face, but inevitably do. Journalists want to answer questions and provide information to stem the flow of rumors and innuendos that so often surround a tragic death, particularly a death of a young person. But a story will more than likely amplify the pain for the grieving family and friends.

Not reporting a suicide at all is an option. In an effort to "minimize harm," an argument can be made that a story will cause more pain to family and friends. And the possibility of "copycat" actions is an all too real concern.

But not reporting can also be detrimental. Recent data from the American Association of Suicidology shows that more than 30,000 people a year commit sui-

cide and there are about half a million attempts annually. Media coverage does not reflect these staggering numbers and, therefore, can be interrupted as understating a serious problem.

Not reporting on suicides also results in opportunity loss—the opportunity to discuss the issues surrounding the topic, such as mental health, and talk about preventative measures.

When a tragedy like this happens, the entire community mourns. This is evidenced by the outpouring of emotions and support on the www.PleasantonWeekly.com's Town Square forum. We will minimize harm as much as we can while taking the opportunity to educate and inform readers about the issue and programs in place to help, including one being held by the school district tomorrow at 9 a.m. in the Amador Valley High School library. We will also provide a forum for the grieving community to come together for support.

Nothing is more devastating than the death of a young person, regardless of the circumstances. If anything positive will come of the loss of these two teens it may be a chance to save another.

*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 17)

Veterans Day parade for political purposes. At an event where the sole purpose was to recognize and thank veterans for their service, Mayor Hosterman thought it was also an opportunity for her to remind residents that they could always come to the City Council to talk about world issues.

Like the War in Iraq, of course. We all remember where she stands on this issue.

And at this week's City Council meeting, Sullivan repeated the mayor's message and managed to contradict himself at the same time. While implying that there was an effort by unnamed individuals to censor people and to

keep people from discussing the War in Iraq at the City Council, he later mentioned that people speak on this topic at every council meeting. Then there is also the issue of Mr. Sullivan's broken promise. More than a year ago, in September 2006, after the council voted at two consecutive meetings to not hold a special meeting on the War in Iraq, Mr. Sullivan announced to the council that he was boldly going to organize and conduct a meeting on his own. The mayor congratulated him on his plan. That was the last we heard about Mr. Sullivan's special meeting. One might say that Mr. Sullivan has censored those who would have spoken at his own meeting.

*Doug Miller  
Pleasanton*

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## Bulletin Board

### 115 Announcements

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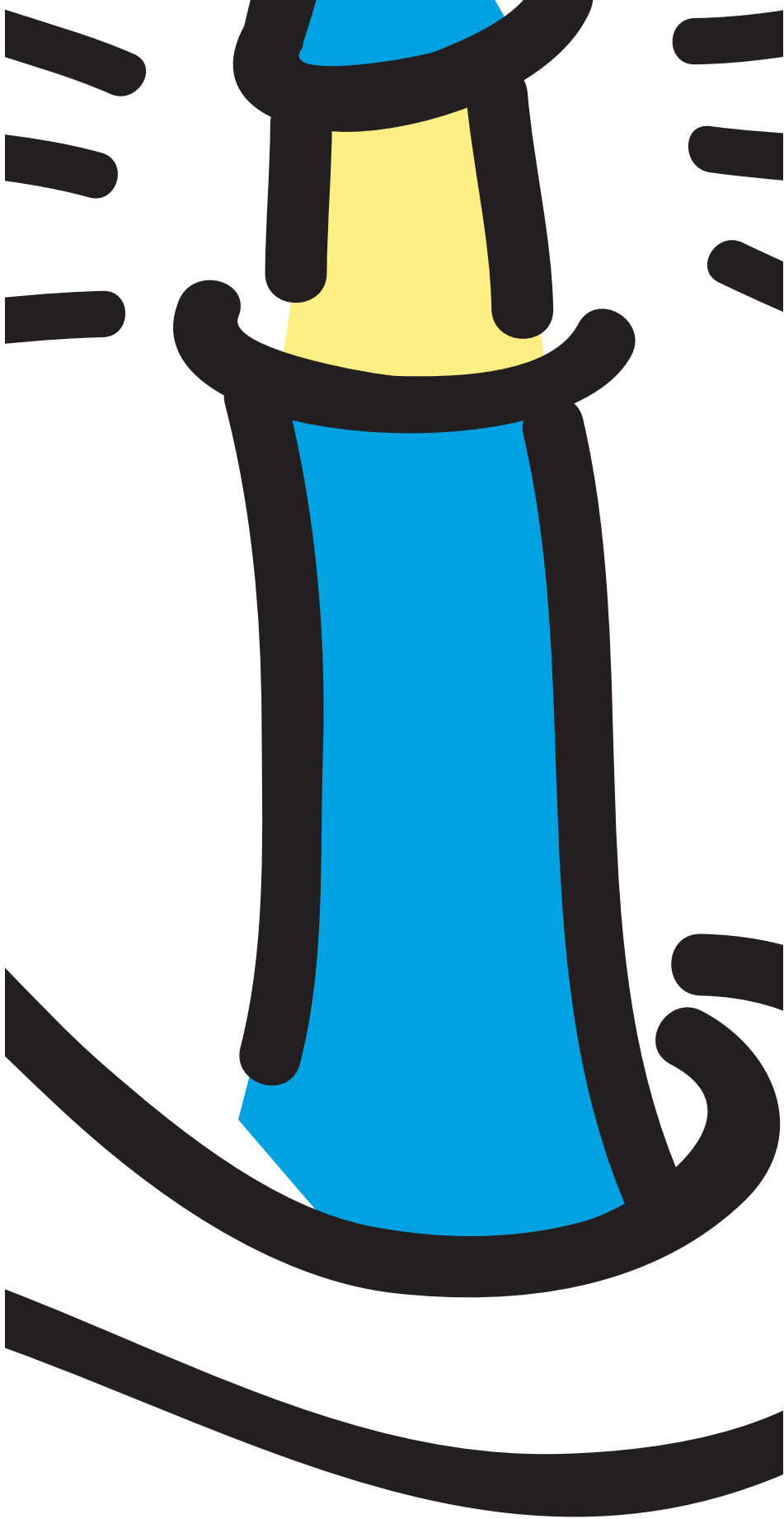
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**PET OF THE WEEK**



**Find purrfect presents at our boutique**

"OK girls, this is my suggestion," Henry, a 2-year-old, neutered male housecat, said. "The boys and I will hang out here and watch the game while you girls put on a cute outfit and go to Valley Humane Society's Animal Lover's Boutique this Saturday. You'll have fun shopping for unique gifts, home decor, whimsical ornaments, and much more!" This eighth annual Animal Lover's Boutique is a benefit for the "Just Like New" Fund which provides medical care to injured animals in the Tri-Valley area. The boutique will be held from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Nov. 10 at the Feline Medical Center, 3160 Santa Rita Rd. (next to Boswells). "By the way," Henry said, "you can visit me and my sister Tilly at Valley Humane Society, 3670 Nevada St. Call 426-8656. Tilly and I have been together since birth so we are hoping to be placed together in a loving indoor home."

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## Pleasanton Real Estate News



by  
Gerarda  
Stocking

### YOU AND YOUR BBQ

There are symbols of home ownership that do a better job of making a man's heart pump a little faster than a barbecue that stands ready to cook a meal for the family. In the American mythology, this signifies home ownership and leisure time and extremely good food. But the magical picture shatters if the barbecue grill carries dried souvenirs of meals cooked throughout its life.

What to do? Heloise has an answer. Stick the grill in a big, heavy-duty plastic garbage bag with a quarter cup of ammonia, tie it shut, and let it be overnight. In the morning, the ammonia fumes will have persuaded most of the caked-on stuff that it's time to go. Finish the job by rubbing the grill with a ball made of aluminum foil or spray the crusty stuff off with a strong power washer.

Another advisor, Linda Cobb, suggests the best job can be done when the grill is hot. Let it cool enough that you're unlikely to burn yourself, then rub it down with a ball of aluminum foil—not with a grill brush (because it often holds food debris itself). Then rub the grill down with "waterless hand cleaner" from your local hardware store. In theory, at least, your grill should shine like new, as should your reputation as the Barbecue Chef (and Chief). For real estate assistance call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at [www.gerardastocking.com](http://www.gerardastocking.com).

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

# Calendar

## 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.

**ADAS Art Demonstration: Robin Purcell** At 7:30 p.m. Nov. 13, award-winning watercolor painter Robin Purcell will share her insights and techniques at Social Hall, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. This free event is open to the public and dessert and refreshments will be served. This monthly program is hosted by the Alamo-Danville Artists Society. Call 691-5030 or visit [www.adas4art.org](http://www.adas4art.org).

**Wellness Workshops** Come learn simple and effective ways to find balance in day-to-day living, build support and take on a positive, relaxed outlook on life. Come to one or both dates and start your life of wellness. These free workshops are from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 7 and 14 at Village High School, Room 704. Call 426-4283.

## Clubs

**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.

**Poet Laureate to Speak at Local Writers Group** The California Writers Club Tri-Valley Branch offers writers of all genres and experience levels the opportunity to learn about their craft and share their work from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 17 at the Oasis Grille, 780 Main St. Martha Meltzer, Poet Laureate of Pleasanton, will speak on "Poetry in the Everyday." The meeting cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for nonmembers. Call Fred, 462-7495 or visit [www.trivalleywriters.com](http://www.trivalleywriters.com).

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## Events

**8th Annual Animal Lover's Boutique** The 8th Annual Animal Lover's Boutique will be held from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Nov. 10 at 3160 Santa Rita Road (next to Boswells). The one-day-only event will offer unique animal related gifts including the Cats Meow Toys & Fashions, jewelry, greeting cards, home dEcor, whimsical ornaments and more. Call Jackie at 846-2512.

**Downtown Pleasanton Magical Holiday Evening** From 6 to 9 p.m. Nov. 16 in downtown Pleasanton, enjoy an evening of festivities including Santa and his elves, carolers, a juggler, musicians and a clown. Downtown Pleasanton and its shops will "deck the halls" with festive decorations, twinkling lights and beautiful window displays. Visit [www.pleasantondowntown.net](http://www.pleasantondowntown.net).

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## Weekend Preview



### Tea time

Well-known tea expert and author Bruce Richardson will sign copies of his books and speak about the art of tea drinking from noon to 2 p.m. Nov. 17 at The English Rose Tea Room and Gifts, 163 Neal St. Richardson is a frequent speaker at tea conferences around the country and the owner of Elmwood Inn Fine Teas. The cost is \$25 for afternoon tea. For more information about this event, call Lisa at 462-6233 or email [lisafhg@earthlink.net](mailto:lisafhg@earthlink.net).

**Together** The Goodguys 18th Autumn Get-Together will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 10 and 11 at the fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. The event features over 3,000 American made and powered vehicles of all years, exhibits, huge swap meet, cars for sale, entertainment, model car show and more. Tickets are \$6 for kids 7-12 or \$13 for general admission. Call 838-9876 or visit [www.good-guys.com](http://www.good-guys.com).

**Julia Morgan Re-enactment** At 7 p.m. Nov. 15 at the Museum On Main Street, 603 Main St., "Miss Morgan" will reminisce about her experiences as a student in Berkeley and Paris in the 1890s, her philosophy of architecture and her colorful clients and associates, and her lifelong involvement with civic, educational, and philanthropic organizations. Visit [www.museumonmain.org](http://www.museumonmain.org).

**Mural, Mural On the Wall** From 6 to 9 p.m. Nov. 16 at Alexander's Main Street Gallery, 610 Main St., a reception will be held for local artist Gary Winter, who will unveil the canvas limited editions of "Amador Valley." He will personally sign and dedicate each piece sold, with a portion of the sales proceeds going to the PDA Mural Project. Call 846-6015.

**National Survivors of Suicide Day** Local Survivors Day conference, "Mending Hearts and Souls," to be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 17 at ValleyCare Medical Plaza, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd. Program will feature keynote speaker State Assembly Member Mary Hayashi, national broadcast from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, facilitated group discussion, and healing information and resources. The cost is \$15, which includes breakfast and lunch. Call 872-5634.

**Pleasanton DeMolay Holiday Boutique** From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 10 at the Pleasanton Masonic Center, 3370 Hopyard Road, a holiday boutique will be held. Space is still available for crafters/vendors. Email [jenny@baywebguru.com](mailto:jenny@baywebguru.com).

**Veteran's Day at the USS Hornet Museum** A special ceremony will be held at 1 p.m. Nov. 11 at the USS Hornet in Alameda with USCG Captain

Pamela Russell, Judy Yarian of Blue Star Moms and USO Secretary Susan Shapira. Russ Donovan, a Korea DMZ veteran, will speak on "Who are the Korea DMZ Veterans?" Tickets are \$6-14. Call (510) 521-8448 x228 or visit [www.uss-hornet.org](http://www.uss-hornet.org).

**ZNA Nor-Cal Koi Show** ZNA Nor-Cal Koi Club is hosting a Koi Show from 9 to 5:30 p.m. Nov. 10 and 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 11 at the Sheraton Pleasanton Hotel, 5990 Stoneridge Mall Road. Events will include live koi judging, koi auction, artists, vendors and raffle. Free to the public. Email [joelan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joelan@sbcglobal.net).

## Exhibits

**Colors! Judy Seidel and Tivol Studios Art Show** Worthington Gallery West, 739 Main St., will have an art show featuring artists Judy Seidel and Jane Tivol. The exhibit runs from Nov. 17 to Dec. 29. There will be an artist reception from 6 to 8 p.m. Nov. 17. Call 485-1183.

**LPC Paints Pets** Las Positas College art students will stage an exhibit—"LPC Paints Pets: A Holiday Show of Loved Ones"—from Nov. 3 to Dec. 7 at the Tri-Valley SPCA Galley, 4651 Gleason Dr., Dublin. Reception will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. Nov. 16. Email [choffman@eastbayspca.org](mailto:choffman@eastbayspca.org). Animal paintings by students of Bill Paskewitz.

## Fundraisers

**Accessories Drive and Party** Acc'sentials is hosting a party to celebrate the new women's line and a drive to benefit Wardrobe for Opportunity. Held from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Nov. 15 at 520 Main St., the night will include chocolate, champagne, red wine and more. The event will be coordinated with a drive to benefit Wardrobe for Opportunity. Entry to the party is free with the donation of one or more women's accessories. Visit [www.accsentials.com](http://www.accsentials.com).

**Clothing Drive and Party** Savvy Seconds, an upscale consignment boutique, hosts a clothing drive, to

benefit Wardrobe for Opportunity, and first anniversary party from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Nov. 16 at 327A St. Mary St. Donations of women's clothing in good condition will be accepted.

**Fundraiser Supports PDA Murals**  
Raffle ticket purchases will benefit the Pleasanton Downtown Association murals. Starting Nov. 1, prizes will be on display in the window at the Old Republic Title Company. Raffle tickets can be purchased at Alexander's Main Street Gallery, 610 Main St., and Clover Creek Gifts, 670 Main St. Tickets are \$5 or \$10 for three. Winners will be announced Dec. 3. Call 846-6015.

**GourMade Cook for a Cause Ornament Drive**  
Help GourMade, 7060 Koll Center Parkway, Ste. 320, decorate a Christmas tree to raise funds for ValleyCare's Emergency Room Expansion Campaign, ValleyCare Health Library and Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center. Donate a new cooking-themed ornament by Nov. 12 and receive a dozen of GourMade's ready-to-bake holiday cookies.

**Holiday Fundraiser for the Arts**  
Special holiday card designs by Sue Evans have been created for Pleasanton and Livermore. Each box sold will raise \$2-4 for the Pleasanton Firehouse Arts Center or the Performing Arts Center in Livermore. Call 989-4113.

**Sole Mates** BasicNecessities.org is accepting donations of gently used or new shoes in children's sizes K8-K12, or financial donations. This holiday season we will be providing shoes and socks to needy children in three K-5 Livermore schools. Call 858-5382 or visit [www.BasicNecessities.org](http://www.BasicNecessities.org).

**The ARC: A Fall Carnival**  
Live music, dinner by Girasole, dancing and free lessons, fabulous silent auction, and carnival games all to benefit the Tri-Valley workshop of the ARC, an organization helping people with developmental challenges since 1950. The event will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. Nov. 11 at the Veteran's Memorial Building, 301 Main St.

Tickets are \$50 per person. Call 485-5465. 6-10 p.m. \$50 per person

## Health

**Free Classes in Holistic Health**  
In November World School of Massage, 699 Peters Ave., will offer two Lymphatic Breast Health from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Nov. 14; and Foot Freedom from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Nov. 15. Call 461-2533 or visit [www.worldschoolmassage.com](http://www.worldschoolmassage.com).

**Free Flu Shots for Older Adults**  
San Ramon Regional Medical Center is offering free flu shots for older adults from 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 9 at the South conference room, South building, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. Adults ages 65 and older can come starting at 9 a.m. and adults 50 years and older can come from 10 a.m. to noon, as the supply lasts. No reservations are accepted. Call 275-8230.

## Holiday

**Holiday Boutique** AA presents their semi annual Trunk Show which includes LAA Gallery Members latest Jewelry pieces and other wearable art for sale from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 16 at the Carnegie Bldg., 2155 Third St., Livermore. Get an early start on holiday shopping with original handmade items by local artists. Refreshments will be served. Call 455-6442.

**Hometown Holiday Parade Needs Participants**  
The Hometown Holiday Celebration committee is seeking community and athletic groups, marching bands and floats to participate in it's annual parade. The deadline for parade entries is Nov. 21. Call 931-3432 or visit [www.hometownholiday.com](http://www.hometownholiday.com).

**Operation Christmas Child**  
From Nov. 12-19, Bay Area residents will be dropping off shoe boxes filled with toys and school supplies at Bay Area loca-

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tions for Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse. Last year, more than 7.6 million boxes were collected and shipped to children in more than 100 countries. Drop off boxes at CrossWinds Church, 6444 Sierra Court, Dublin. Visit [www.samaritans-purse.org](http://www.samaritans-purse.org) or call 800-383-1459.

**Senior Artisans Holiday Boutique**  
 Senior Artisans present a holiday boutique from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 15 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. It will feature one of a kind handcrafts made by Pleasanton seniors in arts and crafts classes, as well as items from the Peddler Shoppe.

**Thanksgiving Day Services**  
 Thanksgiving Day services include readings from the Bible and Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, music and a time for testimonies of gratitude. It will be held at 10 a.m. at the First Church of Christ, Scientist in Livermore, Third and N streets, 447-2946; Danville, 650 Danville Blvd., 837-1081; and Hayward, 1814 B St., 510-581-6865, with a Spanish service following.

## Kids & Teens

**Historical Coloring Book Unveiling**  
 Local artist Gary Winter will unveil his latest, long awaited "Downtown Pleasanton Historical Coloring Book," featuring downtown's main historical buildings from 6 to 9 p.m. Nov. 16 at Alexander's Main Street Gallery, 610 Main St. Gary will personally autograph each book sold at the event. Coloring book retails for \$7.95.

## Lectures/Workshops

**Artist Demonstration: Robin Purcell** From 7:30 to 9 p.m. Nov. 13, award-winning watercolor

painter Robin Purcell will share her insights and techniques at Danville Congregational's Social Hall, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Her work is regularly published and most recently featured in Watercolor Magic Magazine. Dessert and refreshments served. Hosted by the Alamo-Danville Artists Society (ADAS). Call 691-5030.

**Budgeting and Business Planning for HR Professionals** From 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Nov. 15 at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin, learn to develop and manage a budget that meets overall business goals and controls HR costs. The cost is \$275 for NCHRA members or \$350 for non-members for full-day program. Visit [www.nchra.org](http://www.nchra.org).

**Coffee & Conversation** Medicare Part D: Learn about the 2008 prescription drug benefits, eligibility and enrollment updates for Medicare Part D, and where to get extra help to pay for premiums, deductibles and co-payments. It will be held at 10 a.m. Nov. 13 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The cost is \$1.50 for residents or \$2 for non-residents.

**Economic Forecast for 2008** This workshop, Economic Forecast for 2008: What Does It Mean for HR Professionals?, will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 14 at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Hear the latest economic trends with an expert and apply what they learn to their firm, their clients, and their careers. Tickets are \$30 for NCHRA members or \$50 for non-members. Visit [www.nchra.org](http://www.nchra.org).

**Grazing & Erosion Management and Conservation Easements** Community Stewardship for Clean Water Workshop Series: Grazing & Erosion Management and Conservation Easements will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 14 at the Livermore City Council Chambers, 1052 S. Livermore Ave. Call (510) 668-6533.

**How to Build a Successful High-Tech Sales Operation** What are the key success factors? What are the common pitfalls? And how does your sales organization need to grow and change over time? This class will be held from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Nov. 12 at the University of Phoenix, 7901 Stoneridge Dr. #100, Room 101. Free for eBig Members, \$11.50 for non-members or \$20 at the door for non-members. Visit [www.ebig.org](http://www.ebig.org).

## Live Music

**Concert Pianist Daniel Glover to Perform** At 7:30 p.m. Nov. 10 at First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L streets, Livermore, concert pianist Daniel Glover will perform works by Beethoven, Alberto Ginastera, Mompou, and Liszt's Reminiscences of Don Juan. Tickets are \$25. Call 866-4003.

## Miscellaneous

**Regular LAVWMA Board Meeting Canceled** The regular Livermore-Amador Valley Water Management Agency (LAVWMA) scheduled for 6 p.m. Nov. 21, has been canceled. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Dec. 19.

## On Stage

**Metamorphoses** Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Road, presents "Metamorphoses," a Broadway hit by Mary Zimmerman. An inventive adaptation of Ovid's myths. It runs at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 8, 10, 15, 16, 17; and 2 p.m. Nov. 17. Tickets are \$5 for students, \$8 for adults. Visit [www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/avhsweb/hartman](http://www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/avhsweb/hartman) or the AVHS multipurpose room for tickets.

**The Diviners** The Diviners is a poignant, lyrical play about a young boy

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## Calendar

who has a traumatizing fear of water and the former preacher who tries to rid him of his fear. Taking place in Middle America during the Depression, the play is about friendship, community and the search for hope in difficult times. Shows run at 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday Nov. 9 through 18 at Las Positas College. Tickets are \$7 for students and seniors, \$10 for general admission. Call 424-1166.

## 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.

**Dessert Dance** Put on your dancing shoes and enjoy dessert and ballroom dancing to the Don Veca Band Nov. 16 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Dessert will be served at 6:30 p.m. with dancing from 7 to 9 p.m. Register early by calling 931-5365. Advanced tickets are \$7 for residents, \$8 for non-residents. At the door tickets are \$8 or \$9.

## Spiritual

**Compline with Taize Music** At 5:15 p.m. Nov. 11 at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, end the day with candlelight, choral song and contemplation, enhanced by incense and instruments. Those wishing to pray while kneeling or sitting on the floor are encouraged to bring floor cushions. A supper of soup and bread will follow. Call 462-4802 or visit [www.stclare-spleasanton.org](http://www.stclare-spleasanton.org).

## Sports

**Athenian Athletics Track Club** Athenian Athletics Track Club invites athletes ages 7-18 to participate in our winter practice sessions to prepare for the 2008 track and field season. Practices will be held on a voluntary/drop-in basis Monday through Friday. Adults of all ages and ability are also encouraged to join the club to participate in our health and wellness nights program. For practice times and location, visit [www.athenianathletics.com](http://www.athenianathletics.com) or call Coach Rik Richardson, 518-9356.


**Intermediate Cycling Skills Clinic** Local racers Richard Asturias and Xeno Rasmussen will teach how to get faster and stronger without necessarily working harder from 7 a.m. to noon Nov. 11. Both classroom and hands-on, on-the-road training will focus on intermediate cycling skills, positioning and group riding techniques (drafting, pacelining, cornering). Cost is \$85. Visit [www.cyclepath.com](http://www.cyclepath.com).

## Support Groups

**Facing Holiday Blues with a Broken Heart** Fr. Padraig Greene facilitates this support group for those who are faced with heartache, loss and sadness during the holiday season. It meets at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 15 at St. Elizabeth Seton, 4001 Stoneridge Drive.

## Volunteering

**Hometown Holiday** Volunteer for the Hometown Holiday event, Dec. 1. Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older. Apply by Nov. 21. Positions include: check-in assistant, barricade attendant, flagmen, parade marshal, parade check-in assistant, parade formation assistant, tree lighting assistant, hospitality assistant, set-up and/or tear-down crew and disband attendant. Call 931-3432 or visit [www.hometownholiday.com](http://www.hometownholiday.com).



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# Dining Out

## American

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

### Bridges

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

### Pleasanton Hotel Restaurant

855 Main St., Pleasanton, 846-8106. Executive Chef Neil Marquis offers

exciting contemporary American cooking at lunch and dinner, featuring a wide selection of fresh fish entrees. Also offering our famous Sunday Champagne Buffet Brunch full bar and patio service. Visit us at [www.pleasantonhotel.com](http://www.pleasantonhotel.com) for menus and private party and catering details.

## Asian-Pacific

### Mahalo Grille

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

## Barbecue

### Red Smoke Grill

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

## Brewpub/Alehouse

**The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill**  
3015H Hopyard Road, Pleasanton,

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

## California Cuisine

### Stacey's at Waterford

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

### Stacey's Cafe

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

## Catering

### Fontina's Catering

349 Main St., Downtown Pleasanton,

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

## Chinese

### Chinese Szechuan

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

### Panda Mandarin Cuisine

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

## Continental

### Barone's

475 St. John St., Pleasanton, 426-0987. Pleasanton's most romantic continental cuisine restaurant features innovative pasta, seafood and meat entrees, outdoor dining, and a full

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## Dining Out

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### Fusion

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780 Main St., Pleasanton, 417-8438.  
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### Italian

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

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

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

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

### Japanese

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

### Mexican

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### Pizza

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



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When the negotiation process begins, things can get "sticky". First, there are personalities involved, and real estate transactions rarely bring out the best in people. The buyers may seem unreasonable if they make an offer that is considerably less than the sellers are willing to accept. At that point the buyers may become offended by the sellers' attitude. When professional Realtors are involved, the process is much less adversarial. The two parties see very little of each other until the rough edges

have been smoothed out. Good Realtors know how to keep personalities out of the transaction and to help both sides reach a mutually agreeable compromise. Diana Korpi is a multinational award winner. She specializes in residential sales and is a Certified Relocation Specialist and holds the prestigious Re/Max Luxury Homes Designation.

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