

## Church controversy

Catholic leaders defend new priest > **page 5**

Vol. VIII, Number 42 • November 16, 2007

www.PleasantonWeekly.com

## Arrests made

Driver, alcohol supplier arrested in Foothill crash case

> **pages 5, 7**

# PLEASANTON WEEKLY

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> **section 2**



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# Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

## Bouchard leaves chamber in great shape

Pleasanton's well-known business booster Dave Bouchard said goodbye to associates and other friends last Friday as nearly 200 turned out during a three-hour farewell reception. No, Bouchard is not leaving Pleasanton. But he has quit his post as president and chief executive of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, where he served 10 years and helped build into one of the Bay Area's most effective and best recognized business support organizations. Starting Jan. 2, he will become director of business development for Chamber Publishing, a Pleasanton-based firm that prepares directories, promotional materials and works to increase revenues for chambers of commerce, economic development organizations and convention bureaus throughout Northern California. Bouchard's job will be to expand the company to other groups in Southern California, then the West and eventually to turn Chamber Publishing into a national chamber support enterprise.

Bouchard should be good at the job. He has more than 20 years of experience as the chief executive of business organizations. After graduating from UC Davis with a degree in political science, Bouchard was hired as assistant to the city manager of Hollister, his hometown and where his parents still live. Later he moved to Gilroy and a new position as executive director of the Gilroy Garlic Festival, a 30-year-old festival that under Bouchard's leadership has grown to an annual event that attracts tens of thousands. Six years later, the Gilroy Chamber asked him to become its president and chief executive. Working with the city government, Bouchard and the chamber formed an economic development corporation that brought the popular outlet malls to Gilroy and has continued ever since to attract new shopping centers and businesses as Gilroy grows.

Bouchard was recruited by the Pleasanton chamber in 1998, coming here after the group had sustained major losses in several ill-fated and

costly regional technology shows it sponsored. He put the brakes on and stopped the financial bleeding, putting in place an annual strategic plan that toned down the spending and focused on beefing up membership to about 1,000, where it is now.

As part of his strategic planning with the chairman, a position that changes each year, and board members who serve three-year terms, Bouchard developed "Vision Pleasanton," a multi-part planning document that allowed thought leaders from civic, city, business, nonprofit, religious and education circles to convey their views on how Pleasanton should grow and develop in the coming years. The plan became the founding document for the chamber's political action committee that over the past four years has been used in questioning potential City Council candidates on growth-, business-, and environmentally-focused issues the chamber supports. In the last two municipal elections, the chamber's endorsement and financial support through its independently-managed PAC influenced a number of voters to cast ballots for chamber-backed candidates.

Those of us who have been on the Pleasanton chamber's board, as I was before the Weekly was launched, know the executive director's—or now the president's (as the title has been re-labeled) job is not an easy one. It's rotating board chairman and 15-member board of directors from different types of businesses and organizations makes consensus difficult, but Bouchard has excelled at winning support for the many programs and initiatives he's brought to the group. Now at age 54, with most of his strategic thinking in place, Bouchard is moving on to a better paying job with top management opportunities. We'll all see Bouchard around town for years to come, along with his lovely wife Cathy and their 9-year-old daughter Isabel, a third grader at Valley View Elementary, but he'll be missed as the very public leader who has made the Pleasanton Chamber tops in its field. ■

### About the Cover

Michael Moyses, a radiation oncologist, and Ricardo daRoza, a hematologist/medical oncologist, stand in "the vault"—where patients receive 1- to 2-minute radiation treatments that are so precise, they zero in on the cancerous tissue while preserving the healthy tissue. The linear accelerator is just one of many amenities offered at the ValleyCare Regional Cancer Center on West Las Positas Boulevard. Cover design by Manuel Valenzuela.

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# Streetwise

**Q:** Should homeowners be allowed to keep any type of caged bird in their backyards?

Asked Downtown



**Debra Mallie**

Stay-at-Home Mom

I don't think people should keep exotic or wild birds of any kind in cages. There is a reason they are called "wild." Domestic birds are fine but any type of wild bird should be off limits.

**Harry Khangura**

Banker

I think it is fine as long as it is not a threat or disturbance to anyone. I have neighbors that have a lot of pets. As long as they are under control, it is not a problem.



**Doug Stocker**

Semi-Retired

To be honest, it isn't an issue I've spent much time thinking about. Many birds are brought over from foreign countries and kept illegally. These birds might be diseased or illegally owned. Birds kept in cages in backyards would need to be well taken care of and legal. Another issue might be noise.



**Cathy Donnelly**

911 Dispatcher

I think they should be able to keep a caged bird as long as it is not a noise nuisance and is loved and treated well. Caged birds don't have a bad life.



**Susan Osborn**

Dog Trainer

As long as the bird has enough room. They are obviously domesticated at this point and to be set free would endanger their lives. As long as owners are respectful of neighbors, there are no laws against it.



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

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# Newsfront

## News Digest

### Survivors of suicide meet tomorrow

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) will bring together thousands of survivors of suicide loss to share in a day of healing and empowerment through the 9th annual National Survivors of Suicide Day program. Held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. tomorrow at ValleyCare Medical Plaza, 5565 W. Las Positas Blvd., the program will feature State Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi, a national broadcast from AFSP, facilitated group discussion, and healing information, resources and activities. Registration is \$15 and includes food. Space is limited. Call 872-5634 or visit [www.asfp.org](http://www.asfp.org).

### "Spare the Air Tonight" season begun

The "Spare the Air Tonight" season began Tuesday. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District advises the public to refrain from burning wood in fireplaces and wood stoves and to drive less on these special nights, when air quality is forecast to be unhealthy. According to the district, wood smoke is the single largest source of fine particle pollution in winter months—responsible for 30 to 40 percent. The district has only issued two Spare the Air days so far—on Aug. 29 and 30—as compared to the 11 last year.

### Winners announced for Haugen award

The East Bay chapter of the California Elected Women's Association for Education and Research (CEWAER) celebrated its first year of leadership by hosting the inaugural Juanita Haugen Women Making a Difference Awards. The awards were established to honor Haugen, the late Pleasanton school board member and former CEWAER state president. Winners included Erlene DeMarcus and Dianne Jones of Pleasanton, Carolyn Cooper Degnan of San Ramon, and Anne White of Livermore.

### Free yoga offered at library Monday

The Pleasanton Public Library is hosting free yoga at 7 p.m. next Monday for adults ages 18 and over. The class is taught by a teacher from Art of Living, a nonprofit educational humanitarian organization in over 140 countries. No prior experience is required. Bring a yoga mat and a blanket or sweater for warmth during meditation and dress in loose, comfortable clothing. The room fills up quickly, so come early. Call 931-3405 for information.

## Church leaders support 'redeemed' priest; others want him out

by Jeb Bing

Church leaders are speaking out in support of a newly-designated parish leader for the Catholic Community of Pleasanton after members of a nationally-affiliated group protested his appointment because of an arrest for indecent exposure eight years ago.

Joey Piscitelli, Northern California Director for an organization called the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP), said the Rev. Padraig Greene was arrested in Oakland March 2, 1999 for lewd sexual conduct at a sports

facility frequented by children. Piscitelli said Greene admitted to the conduct and spent six months in a rehabilitation center in St. Louis.

Greene was recently named by Bishop Allen Vigneron of the Catholic Diocese of Oakland to succeed the Rev. Dan Danielson, longtime parish leader of the Catholic Community, which includes St. Augustine and St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic churches in Pleasanton. Danielson is scheduled to continue celebrating Mass for parishioners through the Christmas holidays, and to officially turn his duties as Parochial Administrator

over to Greene on Jan. 1.

Piscitelli and several others distributed fliers last Sunday at St. Augustine, saying they wanted to "warn parishioners" about Greene.

"Our concern is that a man with a history of this kind of behavior is not the best choice to lead a community



Rev. Padraig Greene

as pastor of both Catholic churches in Pleasanton and have access to children," Piscitelli said. "This information should be known to parents in the community and awareness is always the best tool to combat the potential danger of sex offenses to innocent children in Pleasanton."

But Danielson said SNAP's fliers were misleading.

"This is a group of people who are survivors of clergy child sexual abuse and they often view the clergy and the church through their own painful difficult experiences,"

(continued on page 10)



Jay Flachsbart

### Early stocking stuffers

Robin Catalano, with daughters Nicole and Fiona, work on filling their packages at a recent care package event at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for the troops overseas. Robin Catalano's son PFC Joel Catalano has been stationed in Iraq since September, assigned to humanitarian activities related to schools.

## Community gathers to discuss recent teen deaths

Groups focus on removing stigma from mental health issues

by Emily Atwood

Parents, school administrators, community leaders and local mental health professionals gathered in Amador Valley High School's library last Saturday morning to discuss the recent suicides. The crowd of about 75 split into small groups and talked about reacting to the deaths, how to help those with signs of mental health and what the community could do to help save lives.

The resounding topic of the day dealt with the negative perception regarding those with mental health problems.

"Another message we need to hear is that with other health concerns, families shouldn't try to cover up or hide mental health issues we may be experiencing," School Board

President Jim Ott said.

Beth Christensen, a licensed marriage and family therapist who used to work for the school district, agreed that moving past the negative view of mental health issues is the next step.

"Parents are begging for information about getting the stigma away from mental health," she said. "It's about support groups for parents, teaching life skills to children and emotional hygiene checkups."

"Our group talked about academic well-being and achieving," she continued, "and mental health should be an achievement too. In such an academic and athletic community, mental health should be the same bar to raise

(continued on page 10)

## McKewon facing gross vehicular manslaughter

Family, friends of both 19-year-old girls fill seats at arraignment

by Janet Pelletier

It was a scene riddled with emotion last Thursday as the arraignment for Katie McKewon, who faces gross vehicular manslaughter and felony drunk driving charges, was held.

Friends and family members of Laurel Williams, who was killed in a car accident Oct. 20, came to the hearing wearing white T-shirts with a picture of Williams wearing a green dress, blowing a kiss to the camera.

The judge presiding in the court hearing, a stern Judge Hugh Walker, set McKewon's bail at \$250,000. She was arrested Nov. 7 on a no-bail warrant. The ruling came after some emotional testimony from both the prosecutor in the case and McKewon's defense attorney.

"This is a tragic case involving two best friends," Defense Attorney Kirk Elliot told the judge.

Described as McKewon's best friend, Williams, 19, was killed in a head-on collision on Foothill Road, north of Highland Oaks Drive. McKewon, also 19, was driving. Pleasanton police released the results of a toxicology report, revealing McKewon had a blood alcohol content of three times the legal limit of .08.

"It's in that range," said Lt. Tom Fenner of the Pleasanton Police Department. "We're not releasing the exact amount but it's pretty close to that amount."

Toxicology reports for Williams may take several weeks to get from the coroner's office, he added.

Results showed that there were no drugs in her system, according to Fenner.

The Alameda County District Attorney's office has charged McKewon with gross vehicular manslaughter, which carries a sentence of between four and 10 years if convicted. She also faces a felony charge of drunk driving, assessed due to a 70-year-old woman in a Mercedes SUV who was critically injured in the collision.

According to the California Penal Code, if

(continued on page 6)

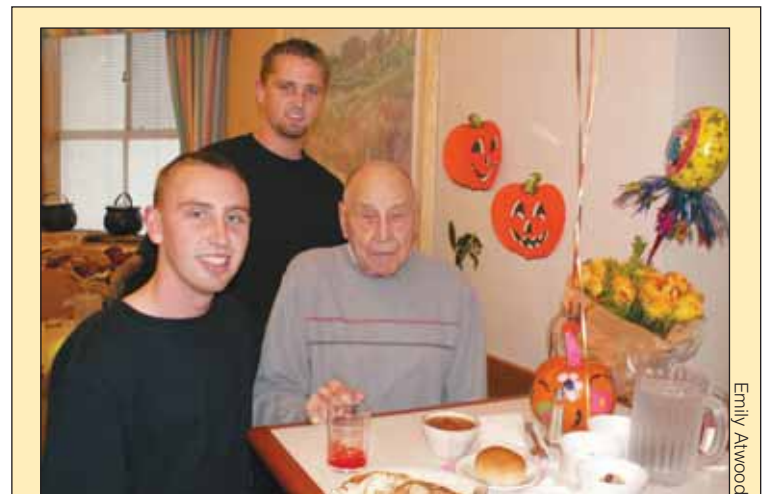


Katie McKewon



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Emily Atwood

**A birthday for the history books**

Orville Nightingale, Pleasanton's oldest living man, recently celebrated his 103rd birthday with daughter Marilyn and grandsons Shane and Ryan (pictured) at Ridgeview Commons, where he was one of the first residents to move in. Nightingale, who has fished with Harry Truman and danced with Ginger Rogers, said he enjoys playing cards and reading the newspaper. When asked the secret to his longevity, he responded, "breathing in and out." Marilyn adds that Nightingale has a great sense of humor.

**Arraignment**

(continued from page 5)

proven guilty, the gross vehicular manslaughter charge is punishable by a state prison term of between four and 10 years.

McKewon's attorney said she had been staying at a residential alcohol treatment facility in Berkeley, where she surrendered to police Nov. 7.

While Elliot asserted that McKewon was not a flight risk and did not have a history of violence, Judge Walker said he couldn't forget the fact that McKewon had been arrested in June on a different alcohol-related charge, which Elliot described as assault against a police officer and public drunkenness. Neither charge has gone through the court system yet and Elliot said there is some disagreement on the assault charge.

"It's too bad she didn't learn anything from her June 10th arrest," Judge Walker said.

"I'm sorry that you couldn't get to her sooner," the judge added, looking at McKewon's parents sitting in the front row.

After the judge's ruling in favor of setting bail, he cautioned Elliot that his client would not be allowed to drive, have any amount of alcohol in her system and must return to rehab to stay there seven days a week, 24 hours a day. If any of those orders were broken, he said he would revoke the bail.

The next hearing in the case has been scheduled for next Tuesday, where the defendant will enter a plea of guilty or not guilty.

After the court session, friends and family of Williams gathered down the hall. A representative from Mothers Against Drunk Driving informed the group what they could expect if the case goes to trial.

"It will be long and very difficult for everybody," he said. "It may go on a long time, could be

nine months or longer."

Reached by phone after the arraignment, Elliot said he is still putting together the case and all of its details.

"As the facts unfold, there's going to be a lot of information and a lot of details that have not yet come out as to how it happened," he said.

"We're hopeful that another tragedy doesn't happen through the court system and we're hopeful that (McKewon) can get on with her life and focus on the issues that she has."

Elliot said he believes that his client understands the severity of the charges against her.

"It's important to point out as many people have: this is not just a one-sided situation," he said. "Obviously, there are a lot of players involved in this and these are young people. There were a lot of mistakes made by a lot of different parties involved and a lot of those parties haven't come forward. But that doesn't excuse the loss of a life, doesn't excuse drinking and driving to that extent."

**Devastating consequences**

With a case such as this, police struggle to find ways to spread the message to the community that underage drinking can have devastating consequences.

"Obviously, a lot of lives have been ruined," Lt. Fenner said. "Our hearts go out to the Williams family and Katie and her family are never going to be the same, and then all the friends who were there or know these people are going to be affected by it forever too."

The police department has held town hall meetings this past year on underage drinking and plans to continue those.

"We did (a town hall meeting) last spring for parents and there was very low turnout. It's hard to help people who don't want to attend the meetings or spend the time." ■

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# 21-year-old Brentwood man arrested for providing alcohol

*Alcohol was served at party where girls were before fatal collision*

by Janet Pelletier

A 21-year-old Brentwood man is facing charges of purchasing and knowingly supplying alcohol to Laurel Williams before she was killed in a car accident on Foothill Road.

The arrest of Paul Stonebarger was made by Pleasanton police on Monday night. He was taken into custody and booked at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin.

"He was very cooperative with our investigation; he wasn't holding anything back," said Sgt. Michael Collins. "My sense is that he has a pretty solid understanding of what this case is all about and he went out of his way to give us all the information we needed."

The Brentwood man currently lives in Chico and previously attended Chico State University. A source identified him as a previous love interest of Williams'.

Police were able to implicate Stonebarger through store receipts, video tape and witnesses' statements.

"We identified him through not only physical evidence and videotape, video surveillance from the store where the alcohol was purchased, but also through cash register receipts confirming the purchase was by him—and also witness statements which were pretty compelling," Collins said.

"A substantial amount of alcohol" was purchased at a store in Dublin, he said.

The alcohol was served at a party on the evening of Oct. 19.

"Throughout most of the night, it was about seven or eight people," Collins said of the party's size. "There could have been as many as 12, 13, 14 people at a time at this party but typically it was eight or nine people."

The gathering was held at a girl's father's house in Pleasanton. The father was out of town at the time and did not know it was going on, Collins said.

Collins declined to discuss a claim that Stonebarger was the person who drove Williams and her friend Katie McKewon to McKewon's car in Dublin, but added that Stonebarger "didn't make any mention of them being in any kind of condition that he didn't feel they could drive in." In general terms, he said it would be a difficult claim to pursue.

McKewon was the driver of a Ford Mustang that crashed head-on into a Mercedes SUV the



Paul Stonebarger

morning after the party, killing Williams, who was the passenger. McKewon was arrested Nov. 7 for gross vehicular manslaughter and felony drunk driving.

Collins said the driver of the Mercedes, Nancy Bressemer, has a serious shoulder injury and is recovering.

Police don't expect to make any additional arrests in the case.

"There's still some people we need to talk to but I think at this point, I don't think we're expecting to make any more arrests on this," Collins said.

He added that Williams was not unconscious when she got in McKewon's car. "We have no reason to think that she was put into the car," he said. "All the interviews we've had with people would contradict that."

If Stonebarger is convicted of the charges, he could face six months to a year in jail, in addition to a substantial fine.

Collins said the arrest spreads the message to young adults that they will be held responsible for illegal behavior.

"It's important to realize that if you act irresponsibly, there are consequences and potentially, you could be held responsible for those actions," he said. ■

Negative stories about real estate often miss the mark

On April 12, there an article in the Wall Street Journal entitled, "Hot Homes Get Cold,"

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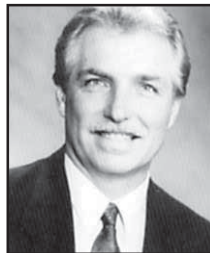
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## Community of Character group forms board of directors

*Directors include representatives from schools, businesses, city, police department*

by Janet Pelletier

The Community of Character Collaborative has formed its first board of directors, setting out to provide programs to the community at-large that will “inspire, motivate and recognize” people.

Ellen Pensky McGraw, who will serve as the board’s president, said the group has attained nonprofit status thanks to help from the city of Pleasanton.

“Our goal is to inspire, motivate and recognize people and as a coalition, we couldn’t really do that,” Pensky McGraw said. “The city of Pleasanton, and it was (City Manager) Nelson Fialho, really thought it was important to be a standalone nonprofit organization and he provided me with the legal resources and support to do that.”

“We wanted to be a nonprofit so we could be more formal, have funds so that we can do more of our education and more of our programs,” she added.

The Community of Character Coalition was started five years ago by the late Juanita Haugen, who was president of the school board among numerous other education

roles. Haugen died in March after a long battle with cancer.

The Community of Character furthers six traits: compassion, responsibility, respect, honesty, integrity and self-discipline. All district schools recognize these and feature each trait for two months.

“This is really Juanita Haugen’s brainchild—she said let’s not only have the schools do it, but have the community do it,” Pensky McGraw said. “The example that I use is that every City Council meeting starts with a reminder about the fact that we are a Community of Character and that we abide by these traits.”

With a board of directors represented by Pleasanton residents, Pensky McGraw said they have future plans and ideas that they will carry out.

“You can see from our board that we have a pretty diverse group—we represent all of the areas of interest in Pleasanton,” she said.

The 11-member board includes three appointed positions: one each by the city of Pleasanton, the Pleasanton Unified School District and the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce. They include City Councilman Jerry Thorne, school

district Senior Director of Pupil Services Kevin Johnson and McGraw, who is vice president of the PTA Council and president of BumbleBee Marketing Services. Other members include: treasurer David Halperin, vice president at Smit Barney, board member and treasurer for the PPIE foundation; secretary Joann Gunson, mother of five, longtime resident and liaison with local churches; Kelly Dulka, director of the Tri-Valley YMCA; Eric Finn, captain with the Pleasanton Police Department and former DARE officer; Ted Kinzer, member of the Parks & Recreation Commission; David Melander, former school board member representing the senior community; Cathy Raty, senior vice president for Mt. Diablo Bank in Pleasanton; and Ron Sutton, CEO of pedometer-maker Accusplit and member of the Make a Difference organization.

In taking the next step, the Community of Character Collaborative will present the first Juanita Haugen Civic Involvement Award next spring. For more information, visit [www.communityofcharacter.org](http://www.communityofcharacter.org). ■

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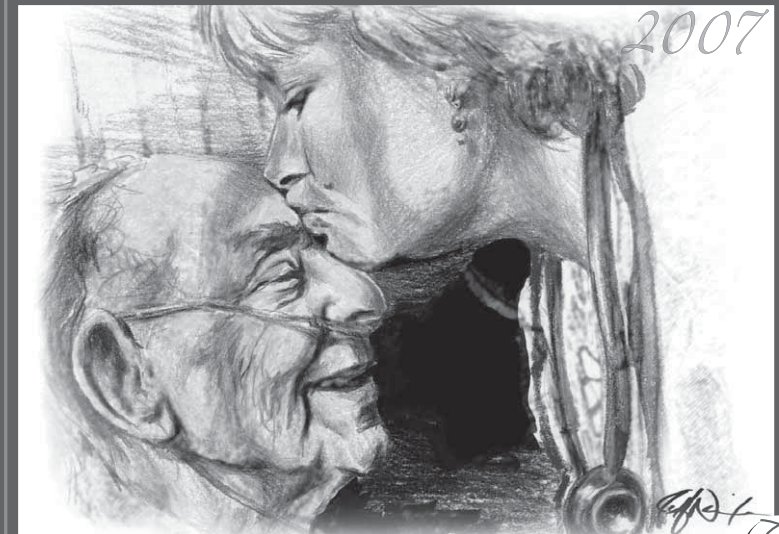


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# Save Pleasanton's Hills

## NO Ridgeline Mega-Mansions

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"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!**

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**Priest**

(continued from page 5)

Danielson said. "This is understandable but it can lead to a misinterpretation of the facts."

According to Danielson, when Greene was arrested there were no children or minors involved, nor were there any nearby at the time. Only the police officer who observed this behavior and subsequently arrested Greene was present. Upon completion of therapy, the charges were dismissed by the court.

Greene, who came here from Ireland, became associate pastor in

Pleasanton after completing his therapy, and served here for five years, before being reassigned to ministry in the diocese since that time.

"The Diocese of Oakland holds as one of its highest concerns the protection and safety of children and all parishioners and is confident in the ministry Fr. Greene will continue to bring to the people of Pleasanton," Bishop Vigneron said.

Michael Gallagher, chairman of the Pastoral Transition Team for the Catholic Community here, added:

"An overwhelming majority of the leaders of the Catholic Community of Pleasanton are I full and loving support of Fr. Padraig

Greene at this time. This is a very difficult time for our parish."

But at least one parishioner—Theresa Aimar—strongly disagrees. In emails to the media and others, she is calling for Greene to "step down and save Pleasanton's unity."

"For the sake of the Catholic Church's reputation and to save the unity of Pleasanton's Catholic Community, please step down," Aimar stated in an email to the Pleasanton Weekly. "This is just going to go on and on and on. The concerned parishioners will not stop until they get a pastor who doesn't have a past sexual offense erased and then hidden from them." ■

**Town Hall**

(continued from page 5)

our kids to."

PTA Council President Jamie Hintzke attended the event and said that her group talked about the community being in "denial mode."

"[The community] is worried about their family being stigmatized for having mental issues," she said. "Mental health is a family and community issue, it affects so many other people. We should all be addressing it and be on the look out."

One goal of the meeting, Christensen said, said was to provide an open forum for the parents.

"We were successful in what our goal was, to have a place to have parents come and discuss their

concerns about suicide and talk about their own experience of what they've gone through," she said.

"It was a success, but we wish to have had more people," she added.

Kevin Johnson, senior director of pupil services, said it was not the quantity of people, but the quality that each person brought to the discussion.

"I don't measure success in pure numbers," he said. "To have as many people as we did I think was gratifying and a great start. I'm pleased by the opportunity for the community to come together and work on solutions."

Parents played a strong part at Saturday's meeting. Some parents attended the meeting out of concern, others because they had experienced losing a child to suicide

and wanted to offer advice.

"I was moved by the willingness of several parents to share their experiences of losing a child to suicide," Ott said. "Their openness created a safe space for an honest conversation between everyone who attended about the causes and possible preventions of teen suicide."

Christensen and Johnson are working together to implement suggestions taken from the meeting. The next meeting on this topic is scheduled for next February.

At Tuesday's school board meeting Trustee Steve Brozosky mentioned that [ptown411.com](http://ptown411.com) has a list of helpful resources for these and other issues facing teens. By clicking "Get Help" on the site's main page, anyone can be connected to various local health agencies. ■

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Take Us Along



Turkey time to read

Amador Valley High School sophomore Hailey Ellingsen holds an appropriate edition of the Weekly (cover story is about the great outdoors) while she poses with a turkey at Round Valley Ranch in Covelo, Calif.

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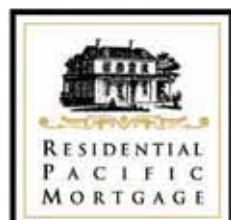
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## WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

### City Council

- The November 20, 2007 City Council meeting is cancelled. The next City Council meeting will be held on December 4th.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### Notice of Pleasanton City Grant Application

##### Availability

Nonprofit, community-based organizations providing human services, youth programs and services, or promoting culture/arts.

Civic Arts, Human Services and Youth Commissions  
**Welcome Applications**

Application Packets will be available to the public  
Beginning December 5, 2007.

- Pick-up packets -  
Department of Parks and Community Services Main Office  
200 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton
- Request packets to be mailed by calling (925) 931-5346
- Packets available through the City website: [www.ci.Pleasanton.ca.us](http://www.ci.Pleasanton.ca.us).
- Application Deadline **Wednesday, March 5, 2008**
- Completed applications must be received by 5:00 p.m.
- No postmarks/Fax/emails.

#### Notice of Pleasanton City Grant

Nonprofit, community-based organizations providing human services, youth programs and services, or promoting culture/arts.

Civic Arts, Human Services and Youth Commissions  
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- Packets available through the City website: [www.ci.Pleasanton.ca.us](http://www.ci.Pleasanton.ca.us).**

Pre-Application Meetings **You only need to attend one (1) of the following:**

- Wednesday, December 5, 2007  
**1:30-3:30 p.m.**  
**City of Livermore Council Chambers**  
**3575 Pacific Avenue, Livermore**  
or
- Monday, December 10, 2007  
**10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**  
**City of Pleasanton Council Chambers**  
**200 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton**

If you have any questions regarding the City Grant process, please contact Kathleen Yurchak, Community Services Manager at (925) 931-5346

#### 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

### Police unveil traffic safety program

A \$139,494-grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety will fund the Pleasanton Police new traffic safety education and enforcement campaign. The program is designed to significantly reduce traffic collisions, increase traffic and bicycle safety, and reduce incidents of driving under the influence, according to police.

The year-long grant calls for presentations to be

made at the local high schools to students as well as parents and city residents. Other components of the grant include bicycle rodeos at the elementary schools, radar speed feedback signs and a lighted crosswalk, and traffic enforcement for red-light running, school zone violations and operations to increase bicycle and pedestrian safety.

The department will again partner with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) to help change behavior and driver attitudes through various forms of messaging.

## Police Report

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

### Nov. 2

- Vehicular burglary:  
-11:29 a.m. in the 2100 block of Camino Brazos
- Drug/alcohol violations:  
-2:13 p.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road; marijuana possession  
-9:44 p.m. at the intersection of Fairlands Drive and Camelot Court; DUI

### Assault:

- 5:06 p.m. in the 200 block of Main Street

### Nov. 3

- Grand theft:  
-11:19 a.m. in the 4100 block of Alvarado Street
- Vandalism:  
-4:30 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; worth over \$400

### Burglary:

- 6:09 a.m. in the 3000 block of Hopyard Road
- 10:01 a.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; vehicular
- 8:03 p.m. in the 500 block of Neal Street

### Drug/alcohol violations:

- 12:49 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Owens Drive; under the influence of a controlled substance

- 1:34 a.m. in the 4500 block of Hopyard Road; DUI

- 9:11 p.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive; marijuana possession

### Nov. 4

- Stolen vehicle:  
-5:37 p.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive

### Vehicular burglary:

- 8:22 p.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

### Drug/alcohol violations:

- 1:27 a.m. at the intersection of Francisco Street and Cortez Court; DUI
- 1:44 a.m. at the intersection of Johnson and Stoneridge Drives; possession of marijuana for sale
- 9:28 p.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road; public drunkenness

### Assault:

- 1:23 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road

### Nov. 6

- Theft:  
-12:14 a.m. in the 7600 block of Knollbrook Drive; grand theft
- 8:51 a.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; grand theft
- 10:20 a.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; theft
- 4:04 p.m. in the 6500 block of Stanton Court; identity theft

### Burglary:

- 9:09 a.m. in the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; vehicular
- 6:28 p.m. in the 1300 block of

Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

### Drug/alcohol violations:

- 5:12 p.m. at the intersection of Main and Spring streets; under the influence of a controlled substance
- 6:05 p.m. at the intersection of Greenwood Road and Valley Avenue; DUI

### Nov. 7

- Petty theft:  
-8:00 p.m. in the 1500 block of East Gate Way
- Vandalism:  
-11:56 a.m. in the 700 block of Main Street; worth less than \$400
- Vehicular burglary:  
-8:20 a.m. in the 1500 block of East Gate Way
- 7:21 p.m. in the 5800 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

### Drug/alcohol violations:

- 3:27 a.m. at the intersection of Entrada Drive and Del Sol Avenue; paraphernalia possession

- 12:38 p.m. at the intersection of Harvest Circle and Winter Court; marijuana possession

- 4:39 p.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Boulder Street; under the influence of a controlled substance, DUI, driving with pot

### Assault:

- 3:38 p.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road

### Mental health danger:

- 6:02 p.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road
- 7:21 p.m. in the 4300 block of Railroad Avenue

### Nov. 8

- Theft:  
-8:23 a.m. in the 2300 block of Meadowlark Drive; stolen vehicle
- 10:29 a.m. in the 4400 block of Black Avenue
- 10:52 a.m. in the 50 block of California Avenue; grand theft
- 3:45 p.m. in the 400 block of East Angela Street; petty theft

- Burglary:  
-9:10 p.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle

- Drug/alcohol violations:  
-10:36 p.m. at the intersection of Owens and Hacienda drives; under the influence of a controlled substance, DUI

- Carrying concealed, loaded weapon:  
-10:36 p.m. at the intersection of Owens and Hacienda drives

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CLOSED SUNDAYS

# Transitions

## Obituaries

### Sharon Bernard-Fraser

Sharon Bernard-Fraser died Oct. 6 at the age of 65.

She was the doting mother of William Bernard, Jr. of Discovery Bay and the late Ernest Bernard of Pleasanton, loving sister of Harold D. James of Hayward and loving grandmother of Brittany Bernard of Discovery Bay.

Mrs. Bernard was born Oct. 18, 1941 in Oklahoma City, Okla. and moved to California as a teenager. She was a resident of Pleasanton for most of her life where she worked as a cellular site acquisition manager with Bechtel Corp.

She loved dancing, golf, gourmet cooking, oil painting, costuming and her fashion-statement attire. She will be remembered for her radiant smile, beautiful costuming and happy spirit.

Friends and family attended a celebration of her life Oct. 27.

Donations to the American Cancer Society will be appreciated.

### Kathleen E. Ballintine

Kathleen E. Ballintine, wife and mother, died in the arms of her husband of 18 years, Paul Ballintine, and their only son Matthew, on the evening of Oct. 28. She was 44 years old.

Born on June 28, 1963 to Kathleen and Ivy Murdock, she grew up in California, graduating from Awalt High School in Mountain View in 1981. Married in 1989, having her only son in 1991, and residing in Pleasanton since 1992, she happily took on the role of mother and homemaker until Huntington's Disease corrupted her body and mind and took her life prematurely.

She will be dearly missed by all who knew her. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Nov. 24 at Lynnewood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton. In lieu of flowers, donors are asked to make a donation to the Huntington's Disease Society of America at [www.hdsa.org](http://www.hdsa.org).

### Elizabeth "Bette" Withers

Elizabeth "Bette" Withers died in her sleep on Nov. 7 at the age of 86.

Mrs. Withers was born in Wheeling, W.Va. on March 26, 1921 to parents William and Elizabeth Och. She moved to California with her husband George in 1942.

Mrs. Withers graduated from Wheeling High School and the College of Commerce in Wheeling, W.Va. She was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church; a 48-year member of Eastern Star; and president of the Lions Club of Angels Camp, Calif. As a teenager she was a champion roller skater and the youngest member of the Wheeling Symphony where she played the French horn. She was also a talented piano player. Mrs. Withers was



an extremely resourceful woman; a leader; an avid reader of historical novels; a creative knitter and seamstress. She was retired from the Livermore School District.

She is survived by her sister Esther Booth of Martins Ferry, Ohio; her son, George (Carol) Withers of Pleasanton; her daughter, Karen (Dave) Newton of Dublin; and six grandchildren, Tiffany (Steven) Chapman, George (Stacy) Withers III, Edward (Elena) Basso, Luke Basso, Melissa Newton and Cheryl (David) May; and nine great-grandchildren. She is also survived by a nephew, Tom (Snowe) Snodgrass and two nieces, Jill Freeman and Joan (Rick) Greenwood.

She was preceded in death by her husband George Withers and great-grandchild Taylor Basso.

Friends and family are invited to her memorial service at 1 p.m. today at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road. Family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in her memory to the Eastern Star Homes of California and mailed to: 16960 Bastanchury Road, Ste. E, Yorba Linda, CA 92886.

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ELVES BY GLORIA MATSUMOTO

## Births

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

### Oct. 8

Armida and Raymond Lopez, a girl

### Oct. 10

Julie and Miguel Castillo, a girl

### Oct. 20

Farheen Mehdi and Mehdi Ali Syed, a boy



ValleyCare Regional Cancer Center provides treatment therapy, clinical trials in warm and inviting setting

The ValleyCare Regional Cancer Center, located at 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., has been open for about a year.

Story and photos by Janet Pelletier

With its sleek hardwood floors, sage green leather-bound reclining chairs and cozy atmosphere, it's hard for patients to imagine they're in the ValleyCare Regional Cancer Center. That's the idea.

The center, which treats people with various types of cancer through modern radiation and chemotherapies, is not just warm and inviting—it's state-of-the-art.

"All we need now is pedicures," Dr. Peter Wong, director of the center, said jokingly at a recent ribbon-cutting and open house to celebrate the facility.

At the event, Wong was joined with other medical professionals who work at the cancer center, as well as those affiliated with the University of California Davis, which has partnered with ValleyCare Health System on the new endeavor. The center has been operating for about a year, just two blocks away from ValleyCare Medical Center, on West Las Positas Boulevard and Stoneridge Drive.

"ValleyCare is very proud of the efforts we've made to bring the business community and the medical community together," said Ken Mercer, hospital spokesman for ValleyCare.

"Our community is so darn lucky to have doctors like this that are concerned about their patients and wanting to provide better care for their patients, willing to take a risk financially and to their medical profession, to go out of the way to produce better medical results for the Tri-Valley," Mercer added. "We're really blessed to have them here."

The regional cancer center shares the same building as the Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center, where cancer patients and their families can have access to a wealth of information—one of the largest collections of cancer-related education materials in Northern California. The resource center is on the second floor and the cancer center is on the first.

Valley Medical Oncology Consultants (VMOC) operate the \$3-million center. Inside the walls of the facility are a computerized linear accelerator, where doctors can dial in radiation therapy treatments, and an infusion therapy center, where patients can receive chemotherapy, biologic therapy and other targeted therapies that are done on an outpatient basis. There are six examination rooms, a lab, nurses station, and two private chemotherapy rooms.



At a recent ribbon-cutting and open house, dignitaries with UC Davis and Valley Medical Oncology Center gathered to celebrate.

Imaging services, such as mammographies, ultrasounds, bone density and PET and CT scans, are available at ValleyCare Imaging Services, also housed at the center. Support services such as nutrition and education counseling, an outpatient pharmacy and medical counseling, cancer support groups, The Wellness Community, Hope Hospice and the Lymphedema Clinic also call the ValleyCare Regional Cancer Center home.

Through the partnership with UC Davis, the center has access to the latest clinical trials, funded by the National Institute of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI), something that is both unique and an asset.

"By partnering with an NCI-designated cancer center, that means we can really come together for clinical care, but it also means we can really come together for things like clinical trials," said Claire Pomeroy, physician and vice chancellor of human health services at UC Davis and dean of the medical school. "Having access to those opportunities gives you two things: one, you get access to cutting-edge therapies that you wouldn't get otherwise, and two, you get the oppor-



These sage green leather-bound reclining chairs allow patients to feel like they're getting treatment in the comfort of their own home.

tunity to give back by helping to grow the knowledge and understanding that we have of cancer."

"And when you look around at the survival statistics of cancer, it's this kind of research that translates into people living longer lives, finding cures, having good days with their families—that's what this is all about."

About 15 patients are currently being cared for at the facility, according to Dr. Michael Moyses, a radiation oncologist for VMOC.

Moyses operates the computerized linear accelerator, giving patients 1-to 2-minute radiation treatments. The accelerator features a flat bed the patient lays on while receiving centralized radiation. A towering machine above the bed can shape a beam to target a cancerous tumor while saving healthy tissue surrounding it, he said. The method is called IMRT, which stands for Intensity-Modulated Radiation Therapy. The room where the treatments are conducted is called the vault. Moyses controls the therapy in an area outside the vault through an array of dials and buttons.

In the infusion therapy center, outpatients can visit the cen-



In addition to this lab, there are six exam rooms, a nurses station and two chemotherapy rooms.

ter for chemotherapy, which fights the cancerous cells and biologic therapy, which helps a person's immune system fight the cancer. Patients can take a seat at any one of the leather recliner chairs in the open area or at one of two private rooms to receive treatment by oncology-certified registered nurses.

Wong is arguably the most proud of the center coming to fruition. The medical oncologist started a program 30 years ago, when he said there were no oncologists in

the Tri-Valley area. He's been with VMOC since 1979.

"These machines are so precise, it can attack the cancer much faster," he said. "And patients love it because they can get all of their treatments in one place."

To receive treatment at the center, patients must be referred by their doctor.

The ValleyCare Regional Cancer Center is located at 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., first floor. For more information, visit [www.valleycare.com](http://www.valleycare.com) or [www.vmoc.com](http://www.vmoc.com). ■

## Local surgeon performs high-tech hip replacement

ValleyCare orthopedic surgeon Aaron Salyapongse has performed the first surgery in Northern California using the latest technology for hip replacement.

The minimally invasive technique does not require dislocation of the hip to insert the prosthesis. Hip replacement surgeries, whether minimally invasive or the traditional open method, require dislocation in order to implant an artificial hip.

"With less anatomy disrupted during surgery, the joint is more stable and the potential for future dislocation is significantly reduced," Salyapongse said.

A traditional open hip replacement surgery requires a 6 to 12-inch-long incision, which also results in a longer recovery.

Salyapongse completed a total joint replacement fellowship at New England Baptist Hospital in Boston. He studied there under Dr. Stephen Murphy, who developed the latest technique, called Superior Capsulotomy.

Salyapongse is part of the Webster Orthopaedic Medical Group, which recently opened a new office on the ValleyCare Medical Center campus at 5555 W. Las Positas Blvd., Ste. 400.



Aaron Salyapongse



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# Opinion

## Editorial

### High-speed trains through town not derailed yet

Just when Pleasanton leaders thought the threat of a high speed train barreling through town was over, Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) has thrown his support to routing the train across the Altamont Pass (and through Pleasanton) instead of the southern Pacheco Pass route that state authorities have chosen. The City Council was aghast a few weeks ago when a representative of the California High-Speed Rail Authority advised members that the Altamont route under consideration would likely mean "bullet trains" traveling through central Pleasanton. She said the train, which would be designed to travel at 220 mph and move passengers between Sacramento and Los Angeles in just over two hours, would probably travel at a much slower 70 mph through Pleasanton and a part of Livermore where the route would have to go. Council members asked for more information before making a decision, but learned they had only a week or before the rail authority staff would make its recommendations. It was clear from the council and city staff and the few in the public at the late night presentation that fast trains through Pleasanton would not be acceptable—or at least this city would do its legal best to keep them out. Joyously, word came this week that the rail authority has chosen Pacheco Pass, no doubt because of fierce lobbying by political and business leaders in the South Bay and the clear lack of enthusiasm over here.

McNerney's letter to Quentin Kopp, the chairman of California's high-speed rail authority, was dated a week ago before the group made its Pacheco Pass decision. But his "strong support for the alignment that traverses the Altamont Pass" and his position in Congress where federal transportation dollars are disbursed may encourage Kopp to reconsider. After all, despite years of study and public presentations, the staff that is making the recommendation to the authority still has to get that board's approval, and voting won't take place for at least another month. The council recently indicated its willingness to spend several million dollars to silence the horns of freight trains passing through Pleasanton at night. With 70 mph trains roaring through Pleasanton on elevated tracks near the Union Pacific line, there could be many more sleepless nights for those who find the train horns waking them up.

## Your Turn

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

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

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

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

## Guest Opinion

### Save our pristine hills and our park

by Jennifer Hosterman and Matt Sullivan



Jennifer Hosterman



Matt Sullivan

We had planned to stay out of the debate over the Oak Grove referendum; however misinformation about the project and confusion in the public about our support considering our history of slow growth, environmental advocacy, and support for neighborhoods, compels us to provide this clarification.

Over three years ago, the property owner started work on a 98-unit plan, which was opposed by the adjacent Kottinger Ranch neighborhood. We have both campaigned against development in the hills and in support of affected neighborhoods. But instead of entering into yet another endless land-use battle, we thought there might be a better way: a collaborative process with the neighbors, the developer, and the city to see if agreement could be reached and these outcomes avoided. Our goals were threefold: empower the neighborhood to help shape the project, provide “finality” from future development, and create a model for the acquisition of public open space for the remaining developable properties in the southeast hills.

The result has been a resounding success! A consensus plan was facilitated by the city for a 51-unit project—half the size of the original—with the addition of \$1 million in traffic mitigation fees for the neighborhood, and the dedication of a 497-acre public open space park. The plan then went through the normal Planning Commission and City Council public review process, input was sought throughout, additional issues identified, and adjustments were made. Regulatory agencies will evaluate habitat and mandate mitigation measures, or prohibit building on environmentally sensitive areas. No taxpayer monies will go to fund the open space park—the developer will deed the property to the city, will construct the trails and a staging area, pay the endowment to the easement-holder Tri Valley Conservancy, and the future HOA will be respon-

sible for ongoing maintenance costs. For the units potentially most visible from the valley floor, one story limits, reduction in size, strict design guidelines, and plant and earth berm screening have been mandated. Finally, not one single house has been approved for this project—each will submit detailed plans and visual simulations to both the HOA Design Committee and the city for approval. The Planning Commission can choose to bring each to a public hearing, and any house can be appealed to the City Council for final decision. With these requirements and processes in place, the images presented by some project opponents of two- and three-story 12,000-square-foot white glowing “mega-mansions” sitting on barren hilltops are simply false.

Similar to what the city achieved with the Bernal property, Oak Grove provides nearly 500 acres of public open space in exchange for minimal development within the context of a collaborative neighborhood process and the support of four out of five councilmembers. With this success, the council has taken the first step in achieving a vision for a magnificent 2,000-acre natural park completely accessible to the public stretching from Shadow Cliffs to the Callippe Preserve Golf Course—forever protecting these hills from development. This is an important legacy that this generation can leave to future Pleasantonians.

*Jennifer Hosterman was first elected to the City Council in 2002, elected mayor in 2004 and re-elected as mayor last year. Matt Sullivan, after six years as a planning commissioner and two years on the West Las Positas Interchange Committee before that, was elected to the City Council in 2004.*

## Letters

### Recognition for Pat Belding deserved

Dear Editor,

So glad to see the recognition and honor Pat Belding received by being awarded the Alameda County Human Relations Commission Distinguished Service Award by the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County. The commendation from the board stated: “The Alameda County Board of Supervisors in the state of California does hereby comment and recognize your exemplary service and leadership on behalf of the resident of District One and Alameda County, and Supervisor Scott Haggerty wishes you continued success in all future endeavors.”

I want to especially thank the Pleasanton Weekly and Editor Jeb Bing for the special “Around Pleasanton” column (“Pat Belding keeps on pushing for more affordable homes here,” Oct. 5, Around Pleasanton, page 3) enumerating many of Pat Belding’s contributions to our county and the Tri-Valley community. Her diligent efforts to work for affordable housing for needy residents, her work to coordinate volunteers to build Habitat for Humanity houses, and to provide visits and ministry to Santa Rita Jail inmates make her a most worthy recipient of the Distinguished Service Award.

*Dave Melander  
Pleasanton*

### Time to move ahead with Oak Grove

Dear Editor,

I am concerned by current “ballot-box planning” efforts in Pleasanton because they could wind up posting “Private Property: No Trespassing” signs on open space in our southeast hills.

You cannot get a better model for limiting hillside development and maximizing public open space than Oak Grove. The neighbors, City Council, and open space advocates pushed the landowner to dedicate nearly 500 acres as a city nature park, build miles of trails and place deed restrictions on the new public park to preserve the hillsides in perpetuity.

While a new hillside ordinance sounds like it offers the city more control, it does exactly the opposite. Regulations and ordinances are not as secure as park dedications and conservation easements. There could never be a law that required private property owners to give away their open space, or to open private land to the public for recreational use.

On the west side of our city, numerous developments have led to miles of dedicated public trails and parklands. Oak Grove is the biggest and best dedication so far—for its size, for its proximity to residents, and for its unique habitat and views. Oak Grove carries out the Trails Master Plan with miles of local trails, a staging area and a major link in the regional trail

system that will eventually connect our region’s magnificent wild areas from Sunol through Callippe Preserve towards Shadow Cliffs and the Iron Horse Trail.

The City Council is pushing for additional dedications so that we can have a greenbelt at our southern boundary with a regional trail running through it. I support this. The first step toward opening the southeast to all residents is to move ahead with Oak Grove.

*Kurt Kummer  
(Parks & Recreation  
Commissioner)*

### Sign the Oak Grove referendum

Dear Editor,

Simple facts:

1. Pleasanton voted in the early ‘90s to prohibit ridgeline development on our western ridges. If you sign the initiative, you will have the opportunity to vote on prohibiting ridgeline development on our southern hills.

2. If you sign the referendum, you will have the opportunity to vote on overturning the City Council’s approval of Oak Grove, which allows up to 12,500-square-foot houses on our southern ridges.

Visit [www.SavePleasantonHills.com](http://www.SavePleasantonHills.com) for more information. We need 4,000 signatures to qualify for the ballot. Please call 462-5446 to help.

*Kay Ayala  
Pleasanton*

### Initiatives deserve to go on ballot

Dear Editor,

What attracted me to Pleasanton over 25 years ago was the involvement the community has in the planning of the city. In other communities people have given up and assume that the politics is too strong therefore their opinions do not make a difference.

In Pleasanton we are privileged that concerned citizens have taken major issues to the ballot. That has helped shape our community and has resulted in the beautiful Pleasanton ridgeline, a housing cap to control growth, a large Bernal park preserved for our children, to name a few.

When issues go on the ballot, this community has serious discussions during the election, and the majority wins.

What I do not understand is that recently there have been very aggressive actions by groups to stop people from signing initiatives to qualify for the ballot. Why would they not want to have these items qualify for the ballot? Do they think that the community is not educated enough to make an informed decision? Do they feel the community would differ from their opinions and their only savior is to not let the people vote on it?

I encourage you to get involved and sign petitions that you feel are worthwhile discussions to have in the community. If you do not wish to

sign, that is fine, but please respect the rights of others to practice democracy and collect signatures.

Take ownership in your community. You make a difference.

*Steve Brozosky  
(former City Councilman, current  
school board member)*

### Act now and sign Oak Grove referendum

Dear Editor,

We must act now to stop our pro-growth City Council from destroying our agricultural open space throughout our town and allowing a property owner from outside the U.S.A. to make tens of millions of dollars by destroying our southern hills.

They want to cut-off the tops of our hills and build a mile-long street lined with mega-mansions up to 12,500 square feet overlooking our town. Actually these should be called palaces because in addition to the main houses (up to 12,500 square feet and three stories tall), they can have super large garages and auxiliary structures (like second homes). This will be visible to the whole city.

The so-called parkland the city is getting in return from the developer amounts to nothing more than a few trails on the hillsides of these palaces. Our taxpayer money would be used to maintain their hills. Please ignore the developer money asking you to do nothing. Please sign our referendum and companion initiative to have a city-wide vote at the next election so we can all decide what is best for Pleasanton.

*Brian Arkin  
(former Planning Commission  
Chairman)*

### No one is king of the hill

Dear Editor,

As an individual expressing my individual views, I wanted to point out in “Ayala gets OK to move forward,” you indicated that no action for ridgeline protection has been taken by the Planning Commission and City Council. Actually, the Planning Commission has taken action numerous times, but has been overruled by the mayor/City Council.

Since 2004, the Planning Commission has taken action to protect the hills, but its recommendations were rejected not once, but three times, by a City Council majority who favors ridgetop development. It also tried to discuss the possibility of the San Juan Capistrano ridgeline ordinance being a model for Pleasanton, but it was not successful in agendizing this discussion for its own Commission meeting. City staff, in an unusual move, even deleted the reference to a ridgeline ordinance in the city’s General Plan.

Coincidentally perhaps, around 2004, a major campaign donor’s (yes, the same developer as the Dublin 21-story condominium

(continued on page 19)

### Code of ethics

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

# Talking Points

by Gina Channell-Allen



## Anonymity allows open and diverse dialogue

The Weekly's online Town Square forum within the past week or two has been filled with supportive, informative and cathartic dialog. Some of the posts, however, have been more than a little snarky, to the point of being accusatory and inflammatory. In one forum with a somewhat controversial topic, one frustrated poster asked what many editors and publishers have also questioned: Why allow anonymous posts?

Our policy for Letters to the Editor in our print edition requires the authors to give their name and telephone number, although we only print the names and sometimes their communities. We also call to verify the authorship. Old-school journalists (myself included) have been taught that opinions, facts and quotes must be attributed. Shouldn't people posting in our Town Square forum also be required to put their name on their statements and opinions? And doesn't anonymity open up the possibility for abuse without consequences?

On the other hand, how many opinions, questions and comments have been squelched because of the writer's fear of mockery, hostility or even retribution?

New media means new rules and a new way of thinking. To open up the lines of communication, journalists have been forced to embrace anonymity. Or at least endure it. It goes against every fiber of our journalistic beings because we equate anonymous forum posts to unnamed sources, which are taboo.

Alas, anonymous posts do have some merit as they can bring to light issues that otherwise would have remained in the dark. (Remember "Deep Throat?")

However, just as with unnamed sources, one must question the authenticity of the statements. Moreover, anonymity should be viewed as a privilege and shouldn't be a means to abuse or inflame simply because it's available.

So we will continue to allow anonymous posts to allow an open line of communication and enhance

the diversity of the conversation. But we will also continue to monitor carefully based on the site's terms of use and our own journalistic guidelines.

Forum users are encouraged to assist us by alerting us to posts with which they are uncomfortable and by modeling good behavior with constructive, compassionate comments and questions.

If the Weekly staff feels a forum is becoming hostile or destructive, we will intervene and even close the thread (not allow further posts) if necessary.

Because our goal is to provide a forum to allow community members to engage in enlightening and educational discourse, we would prefer it not come to that.

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

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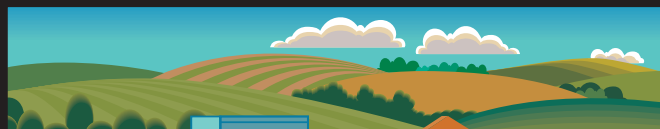


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Letters

(continued from page 17)

project) proposal for luxury homes on top of the southeast hills was submitted to this city.

Like Pleasanton, San Juan Capistrano is a picturesque town. While neighboring cities have adopted ordinances to protect their magnificent hills threatened by encroaching luxury subdivisions (e.g., Save Fremont Hills), in Pleasanton it has been an "uphill" battle. One of the reasons for San Juan Capistrano's beauty is a city-wide ordinance that forbids building on ridgelines or sightlines. The rolling hills remain unfettered, and no one is king of the hill. Not even major donors.

Anne Fox  
(chairwoman of the Planning Commission)

Energy should be spent on permit process

Dear Editor,

The city manager, developer, and community have worked together on a plan that has won near unanimous support on the City Council. Why does the council support the Oak Grove project? Because they gave the developer and city manager direction to work with the community and they did just that.

At this stage, our energy is better directed at watch-dogging the permitting process through the various local and federal agencies to ensure environmental issues (clean water, wildlife habitat, etc.) are resolved or properly mitigated.

In addition, the open space is worth more than 496 acres and protection of the urban growth boundary; it is the keystone property in the Pleasanton southeast hills to help spawn the remaining connections

between the Vineyard Corridor and the Callippe Preserve.

The proposed referendum will not only take away the park and undo all of the work that has been done to achieve a reasonably balanced solution, it makes a very wild assumption that another cast of characters will somehow arrive at a better solution in the future. I am not willing to take that risk and will not support the referendum. Please research the issue before signing the petition or just don't sign it.

Jon Harvey  
Pleasanton

Signatures bring city closer to losing 500-acre park

Dear Editor,

Watch out Pleasanton. Solicitors for two more ill-conceived ballot measures have hit the streets. Before you sign their documents, please consider their unintended consequences.

Reversing the approval of 51 homes and a 498-acre park at Oak Grove will actually:

- increase the number of units permitted from 51 to 98
- give away ownership of 498 acres of park land
- eliminate permanent protection of the open space and views in Pleasanton's southeast hills

These seemingly sincere petitioners are passionate about their cause, but woefully ignorant of land use and property rights law. Nonetheless, they get signatures by appealing to residents' desire to save open space.

For instance, while showing pictures of what look like office buildings on a hill (definitely not approved for Oak Grove) they hastened to assure me that Pleasanton would still get to keep the park if their ballot measures were successful. They explained their strategy to pass laws that will make it impossible to develop the property, thus forcing the property owner to give

all their land to Pleasanton in order to avoid having to pay taxes on their now worthless property. This is both unlikely and illegal.

Far from saving open space, their petitioning jeopardizes over 15 years of work by environmental, open space, and trails advocates to protect our southeast hills. Every signature they collect brings Pleasanton closer to losing a 500 acre park and permanently reducing the amount of development allowed at Oak Grove.

For further information, visit [www.keepourpark.org](http://www.keepourpark.org).

Becky Dennis  
(former City Councilwoman)

See the good in Oak Grove park

Dear Editor,


What a gift to Pleasanton! Over 475 acres of dedicated park that we don't have to build or finance! The City Council voted 4-1 for this compromise of 51 homes (not the

98 that the entitlement is for on the property), for all this acreage of built park.


It has gone through an extensive review process, fully open to the public, if we chose to participate. The city and Council are working hard to finance the Bernal property, an unnecessary step for this park. Trails, open space, a boundary between Pleasanton and Livermore are such positive benefits. All these homes will have to go through an extensive planning and permitting process with the city. You can bet these will be highly scrutinized homes so that they don't look like the ones jutting from the cliffs in Oakland, however built in a style like Mayor Hosterman likes—timeless, "green," and elegant.

Pleasanton voters, see the good in this park, don't sign the referendum being passed around town. Better yet! Ask how we got to this when the City Council meets.

Janice Phalen  
Pleasanton



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# Calendar

For a full set of community calendar listings, or to enter a listing, visit [www.PleasantonWeekly.com](http://www.PleasantonWeekly.com)

## Author Visits

**Mother/Daughter Duets** Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., presents Dr. Shura Saul and Jennifer Rosvaly authors of "Mother/Daughter Duets: Relationships in Counterpoint" at 2 p.m. Nov. 29. Their book guides readers towards better self awareness and unique circumstances of their own relationships. Call 931-3411.

**Tea Expert to Speak at English Rose** Well-known tea expert and author Bruce Richardson will sign his books

and speak about the art of tea drinking at The English Rose Tea Room and Gifts, 163 West Neal St., from noon to 2 p.m. Nov. 17. Richardson is a frequent speaker at tea conferences around the country and the owner of Elmwood Inn Fine Teas in Kentucky. The cost is \$25 for afternoon tea. Call 462-6233.

## 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.

and more takes place from 1 to 4 p.m. Nov. 17 at the Pleasanton library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Learn to use simple techniques to get relief from aches, pains and discomforts with instructor Robin Varga, certified reflexologist, CMT.

## Clubs

**Happy Beginnings: How I Became My Own Fairy Godmother** From 6 to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 20 at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, 5115 Hopyard Road, Express2Success presents author Lorena Bathey and her book, "Happy Beginnings: How I Became My Own Fairy Godmother." Join us to hear her passionate story and her steps to becoming a fairy godmother. Nonmembers are welcome to attend at a cost of \$5 per meeting. Call 202-9077 or visit [www.express2success.org](http://www.express2success.org).

**Lawyer Addresses Democrats** Lawyer Jerry Okendo will address the Tri-Valley Democratic Club from 7 to 9 p.m. Nov. 19 at the IBEW 595 Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. The

address will be followed by an interesting Q & A session. Jerry is affiliated with the League of United Latin American Citizens and the ACLU. Wheelchair accessible, refreshments served. Call 831-8355 or visit [www.trivalleydemocrats.com](http://www.trivalleydemocrats.com).

**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).

## Concerts

**Pianist Jon Nakamatsu** Del Valle Fine Arts concert series presents pianist Jon Nakamatsu at 8 p.m. Dec. 8 at Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$29, \$24 and \$19. They can be purchased from the LVPAC box office (373-6800) from noon to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday or online at [www.livermoreperformingarts.org](http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org). Visit [www.delvallefinearts.org](http://www.delvallefinearts.org) for concert information.

## Events

**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).

**Holiday Boutique** A Holiday Vendor Boutique will be held from 5 to 9 p.m. Nov. 28 at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 7557 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. Fifteen percent of sales go to Resurrection Lutheran Child Development Program. A raffle with a grand prize of a free photography session with Bella Luna Photography is also available. Call 829-5487.

**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.

## 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.

**Pioneer Gallery Presents: Stephen Sanfilippo** Meet renowned landscape oil painter Stephen Sanfilippo during the downtown Danville holiday kickoff from 4 to 9 p.m. Nov. 23 at Pioneer Art Gallery, 524 Hartz Ave. The event will include festive food and drinks, jewelry showcase and works of more than 40 other

## Pleasanton Real Estate News



by Gerarda Stocking

### THE PROVERBIAL GIFT HORSE

Okay, let's say your kindly Uncle Horatio gave you a deed to his property on the condition that you not record it until he dies. Red flag!

What you have in your hands is potentially a worthless piece of paper. Suppose Horatio forgets his largesse to you and sells the property shortly before dying. What claim to the property do you have?

Probably none. A deed is very often unenforceable unless it has been recorded with the county recorder. If Horatio had really wanted to will the property to you, he should have literally willed it to you. (Notice that the laws regarding deeds may vary from state to state, and be sure to consult your real estate attorney should a situation like the above develop.)

Now, the point here is ultimately less about Uncle Horatio and more about title insurance.

What we need in real estate transactions is a written contract and deed that has been recorded with your title insured by an excellent title insurance company. That makes it far easier to sleep at night, knowing that the home and property will continue to belong to you the next day. For more information 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.*

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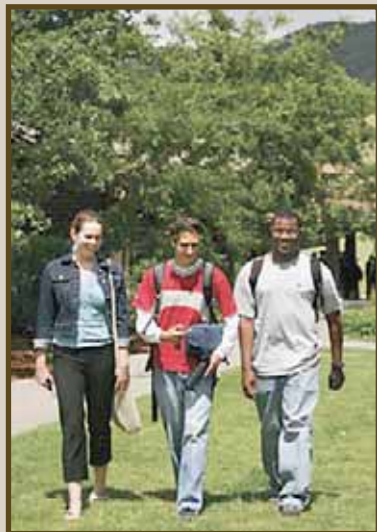
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artists. Exhibit runs Nov. 13-27. Hours are: 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, 1 to 9 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

**Porcelain art** Porcelain Art by Eugenia W. Zobel will be on display Oct. 31 through Nov. 29 at Wente Vineyards Estate Winery Gallery, 5565 Tesla Road, Livermore.

## Fundraisers

**Clothing Drive and Party** Savvy Seconds 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.

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

## Holiday

**24th Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony** Dublin's 24th Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held from 7 to 8 p.m. Nov. 29 in the fountain courtyard of the Dublin Civic Center, 100 Civic Plaza. Toy or canned food donations are encouraged and the first 350 attendees will receive a small holiday gift.

**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

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### SPECIAL NOTICE FROM PLEASANTON NATIONAL LITTLE LEAGUE REGARDING 12 YEAR OLD BASEBALL PLAYERS

Due to a recent change in the Little League Baseball regulations, all 12 year olds must be placed onto a Majors Division Team in 2008. Due to this change, the PNLL expects to add extra teams to the Majors Division. In order to ensure that all 12 year olds are placed on a Majors Team, the last day to register a 12 year old for next season is December 8th.

To register a player, please log onto [www.sportability.com](http://www.sportability.com) or [www.pnll.info](http://www.pnll.info)

In addition to completing the online registration, all 12 year old players must attend player evaluations. Player evaluations help ensure that all teams are equally balanced.

Major Division player evaluations are scheduled for December 1-2 and December 8-9 at the adult softball fields at the sports park. The scheduled evaluations times are:

- Saturday 12/1 from 9 to 12
- Sunday 12/2 from 2 to 4
- Saturday 12/8 from 9 to 12
- Sunday 12/9 from 9:30 to 11:30

Again, this notice applies to 12 year old players only. Please see the PNLL website for additional information on registration for all other player age divisions.

REAL ESTATE ADVISOR

*Diana Korpi*



### Giving New Life To An Old Listing

In every area there are homes the sell rather quickly, while others seem to linger on the market. If the "For Sale" sign in front of your house has become a neighborhood fixture, it is important to work with your agent to keep your listing fresh.

Whenever your house is shown, the Realtor will get feedback from the buyers or other Realtors about your house what they liked about it and what did not work for them. Invite your agent to be completely honest with you about any feedback. Listen with an open mind and with the understanding that there is nothing personal about these comments. Don't delay in implementing any of the ideas that make sense to you. In addition to the feedback, examine three factors: price, condition, and mar-

keting. Should there be a price reduction? Are there any features that make your home show poorly? Are there other avenues of marketing?

It is almost as frustrating for the agent as for the seller if you have had no offers. Real estate professionals have tried everything from fresh paint to new landscaping to attract buyers. The right one will come along, especially if your house looks its best.

*If you or someone you know is thinking about buying or selling, contact Diana at ReMax Accord. Diana is committed to professional, attentive service to her clients - always willing to go the extra mile. When you deserve the very best, call 925-830-4764. [www.dianahomes.com](http://www.dianahomes.com) ReMax Accord*



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A portion of all purchases made from November 16 to December 24 will be donated to the support the construction of the Firehouse Arts Center.



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# KEEP OUR PARK

## Don't Sign the Petitions

KeepOurPark.org



Did you know that the referendum would mean:

- **The City GIVES BACK the 500-acre nature park.** The property becomes private again. Pleasanton residents will be unable to enjoy the property because there will be no public access, no multi-use trails and no regional trail link connecting Callippe Preserve with Shadow Cliffs.
- **We lose the chance to seal Pleasanton's southern boundary with a permanent greenbelt.** There will be no easements protecting the open space in perpetuity. The door remains open for future development proposals, roads through the southeast hills and schemes that threaten the 12,000 oak trees preserved by the new park at Oak Grove.
- **Instead of 51 homes, the property reverts to existing zoning that allows 98 homes.**
- **We subvert the public process and cost Pleasanton taxpayers money.** Our slow-growth City Council drove a tough deal and voted 4-1 for a plan that brings so many benefits for our entire community. Let's not throw it all away and spend our tax dollars on an unnecessary election.
- **Personal gain for some at the expense of the greater good.** Look at who is behind the referendum.

### The petitions have unintended consequences.

Be informed. Separate fact from fiction. Please do not sign the petitions.

For more information, please go to [www.keepourpark.org](http://www.keepourpark.org) Join Us!

Jennifer Hosterman, Pleasanton's Mayor  
 Cheryl Cook-Kallio, City Council member  
 Matt Sullivan, City Council member  
 Jerry Thorne, City Council member  
 Becky Dennis, former City Council member  
 Sharrell Michelotti, former City Council member  
 Bob & Orley Philcox, former Mayor  
 Tom Pico, former Mayor  
 Kathy Narum, Planning Commissioner  
 Arne Olson, Planning Commissioner  
 Jennifer Pearce, Planning Commissioner  
 Larry Lindsey, former Planning Commissioner  
 Trish Maas, former Planning Commissioner  
 Jim Dibiasi, 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  
 Joe Jones, Housing Commissioner, Trails Ad Hoc  
 David Stark, Housing Commissioner  
 Pat & Marcia Kernan, PUSD School Board Trustee  
 Jim Ott, PUSD School Board Trustee

Christine Steiner, Alameda Co Housing Commissioner  
 Jeff Durban, Trails Ad Hoc Committee  
 Ralph Rajs, Trails Ad Hoc Committee (pending)  
 Joe Streng, Trails Ad Hoc Committee (pending)  
 Deb Wahl, Trails Ad Hoc Committee  
 Tony Rivera, Civic Arts Commissioner  
 Dick Quigley, Zone 7 Director  
 Jan Batcheller, Pleasanton resident & business owner  
 Mary Jane & Tom Casper, Vintage Hills residents  
 Rich Cimino, Audubon Society  
 Dan Faustina, Pleasanton resident  
 Tom & Sue Fox, Kottinger Ranch residents  
 Kathleen & Bronco Hinek, Kottinger Ranch residents  
 Skip Hinsley, local business owner  
 Ron Hyde, retired Superior Court Judge  
 Otis Nostrand, Pleasanton resident & business owner  
 Kristen Ondeck, Vintage Hills resident  
 Carl Palowitch, Economic Vitality Committee  
 Janice Phalen, Pleasanton resident  
 Eric Schumacher, Vintage Hills resident  
 John Shurtleff, Pleasanton resident  
 Keith & Lisa Symons, Kottinger Ranch residents  
 Sandi Thorne, Pleasanton resident

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

served. Cal 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 its annual parade. The deadline for parade entries is Nov. 21. Call 931-3432 or visit [www.hometownholiday.com](http://www.hometownholiday.com).

**Hope Hospice Lights of the Valley Illumination Ceremony** Join us as we light the Tree of Life from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 28 at 300 Main St. It is a heartwarming tradition of music, memories and holiday treats for families in Pleasanton. Enjoy the Golden Gate Boys Bellingers. Purchase a symbolic light, star, angel or name on a memorial wreath. Call 829-8770 or visit [www.hopehospice.com](http://www.hopehospice.com).

**NBC11 Holiday Food Drive** From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Nov. 17, NBC11 Chief Meteorologist John Farley brings his Holiday Food Drive to Bay Area Nob Hill Foods, Raley's and Food Source locations. NBC11 and Bay Area Kiwanis volunteers will collect food and money to benefit local food banks. Visit [www.nbc11.com](http://www.nbc11.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 locations 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.samaritanpurse.org](http://www.samaritanpurse.org) or call 800-383-1459.

**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.

**Toys For Tots** The 2007 Toys-for-Tots Campaign runs through Dec. 24. Delivery of new, unwrapped toys can be made to Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Stations and the Livermore and Pleasanton Police Departments. Firefighters have pledged to collect 15,000 toys to benefit the Tri-Valley. Call 454-2302 or visit [www.lpfire.org](http://www.lpfire.org).

## Kids & Teens

**Abbie 4-H Meeting** 4-H is a nationwide youth organization for ages 5 to 19 that helps young people gain citizenship, leadership and life skills, and participate in community service. The Abbie 4-H club has numerous animal, non-animal and leadership projects. It meets at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of the

month at Mohr Elementary School, 3300 Dennis Drive. Visit [www.abbie4h.org](http://www.abbie4h.org).

**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



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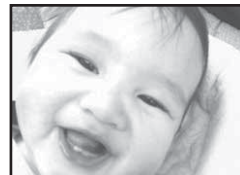
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Medical Oncology Consultants, as they discuss the latest in chemotherapy and radiation treatment options at 6 p.m. Nov. 29 at Regional Cancer Center at ValleyCare, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd, Stes. 240 A and B. Call 933-0107 or visit [www.twc-bayarea.org](http://www.twc-bayarea.org).

## Live Music

**Pleasanton Community Concert Band Children's Concert** The Pleasanton Community Concert Band will be presenting their annual free Children's Concert, Music from Famous Cartoons, at 2 p.m. Nov. 18 at the Bankhead Theater, 1200 First St., Livermore. Call 846-5897.

## 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 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

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## Seniors

**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.

## 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.

**Pleasanton Rage Winter Academy** Come have fun and continue to work on your soccer skills through the winter months from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Mondays at Val Vista Soccer Complex. Pleasanton Girls Soccer will be hosting an academy for U8-U10 girls soccer players. Details can be found at [http://www.pleasantonrage.org/docs/Youth\\_Academy07.pdf](http://www.pleasantonrage.org/docs/Youth_Academy07.pdf). The cost is \$100.

## 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

### Vic's All Star Kitchen

201 Main St., Pleasanton, (925) 484-0789. Vic's delivers a stary 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

### Main Street Brewery

830 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-8218. Pleasanton's only BrewPub, some ales (Attaboy IPA) are brewed with locally grown hops. We also have a rotating selection of guest brews and seasonal ales. To-go orders welcome and we're available for parties up to 100. Live music every Friday and Saturday, visit [www.mainstreetbrewery.com](http://www.mainstreetbrewery.com) for activities and specials.

### The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill

3015H Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 426-9600. Voted Best Watering Hole in Pleasanton, The Hop Yard offers 30 craft beers on tap as well as great food. The full-service menu includes appetizers,

salads and grilled fare that will bring you back time and again. Banquet facilities available. On the web at [www.hopyard.com](http://www.hopyard.com).

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


## California Cuisine

### Stacey's at Waterford

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



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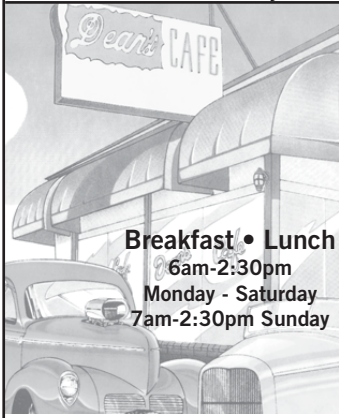


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### Chinese

#### 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 bar. Barone's is open for dinner seven nights and lunch Monday through Friday, with live music on Friday and Saturday evenings. Ask about our banquet facilities and special events.

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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. It was voted Best Italian Restaurant by Pleasanton Weekly readers for 2007. We feature signature cuisine such as Scoozzi, Absolut! prawns, chicken gorgi, pppinach for Veronica, Tuscan pork and signature fresh seafood...just to name a few. We are upscale, but California casual with friendly prices.

#### Pastas Trattoria

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

### Japanese

#### Ume Sushi

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

#### Sato Japanese Cuisine

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

### Mexican

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

### Pizza

Gay Nineties Pizza Co.

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

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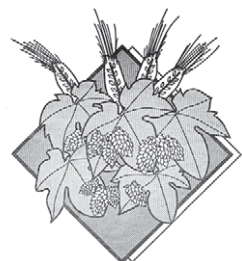


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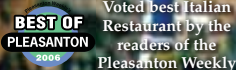
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