

## Snooze studies

Stanford sleep researcher speaks at Las Positas ► **Section 2**

Vol. VIII, Number 43 • November 23, 2007

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### Lighten up

Local Girl Scouts  
hand out free  
fluorescent light  
bulbs

► page 5

# PLEASANTON WEEKLY

### Saying goodbye

Presbyterian  
church moves  
to new facility

► page 5

Give now to help others  
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# *Holiday Fund*

page 12





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# Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

## Heads up for Black Friday

If you can't find a place to park today as you make your way around town to start your Christmas shopping, think positive. Merchants from Macy's at Stoneridge Shopping Center to Clover Creek downtown will be ecstatic, glad to see you frantically searching for a parking spot to join the customers standing in line at their cash registers inside. It's what they've been waiting for. Today is Black Friday—the day after Thanksgiving—and traditionally one of the busiest shopping days of the year for retailers. Many of us no doubt stayed glued to our computers between turkey and pumpkin pie yesterday checking for door buster deals that started at 5 a.m. at Wal-Mart and several other stores this morning. In fact, breaking with tradition, Wal-Mart jump started the Black Friday mania a few days ago in an all-out effort to stroke holiday shopping excitement early.

There's a reason, of course, that those who sell want us to shop early and often. It's not been a terribly bang-up year in retailing. An unusually warm and dry fall has caused a drop in winter wear and raingear. High gasoline prices, fears over a market slump and even the housing market slowdown have dampened buyer enthusiasm along with sales. That's why Black Friday is important this year. It marks the start of the holiday shopping season that takes retailers out of the red (losses) and into the black (profits).

Some in my family are so into shopping on Black Friday that they keep tabs by text messaging their friends as ads are released on Web sites. With advanced sales information and sale prices listed during the late night hours, often relying on friends on the East Coast to alert them to Best Buy and Circuit City big ticket items that will be on sale here before

daybreak. Last year, Wal-Mart offered less than 100 42-inch LCD televisions at less than \$1,000, well below the going market price. They sold out quickly, but with a New York-based spotter, we were there well before others got the word and nabbed the item.

I've learned that those who travel the fastest travel alone. If you have your list in hand of Game Boys and other electronics you simply must get for children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, it's best to go alone. Early morning lines snake all across a store and you'll be able to maneuver through the crowds better without a partner. Remember, time is of the essence on Black Friday because the top items sell out quickly.

Although a fun-filled, though stress-challenging day, Black Friday actually comes from a less joyous time, taking its name from the heavy traffic, extremely stressful and chaotic experience of Black Tuesday, the 1929 stock market crash. Most contemporary uses of the term, however, focus on the theory that retailers traditionally operate at a financial loss for most of the year and make their profit during the holiday season. Many retailers are indeed dependent on the Christmas season for their profits.

Now there's also Cyber Monday, referring to next Monday, which officially marks the beginning of the Christmas online shopping season. Even online retailers are joining the promotions this year, with many offering low prices and other promotions on Monday. So check your favorite Internet web sites, but of course buy what you can right here in Pleasanton. Keep the sales here to make sure our historic downtown and shopping center, along with Pleasanton's many other retail centers share in the prosperity that makes this community great. ■

### About the Cover

Eight deserving agencies: Axis Community Health, Hope Hospice, Open Heart Kitchen, Pleasanton Partnerships in Education, Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley, Tri-Valley Haven and Valley Humane Society, and ValleyCare ER will all be beneficiaries in this year's Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund. The goal is to raise a total of \$150,000. The Tri-Valley Community Foundation, which will disperse the money, has pledged to match dollar for dollar. Story by Jeb Bing. Cover design by Shannon Corey. Vol. VIII, Number 43

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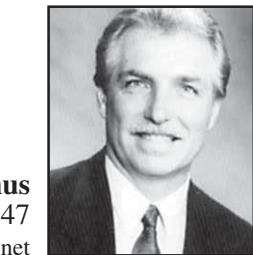
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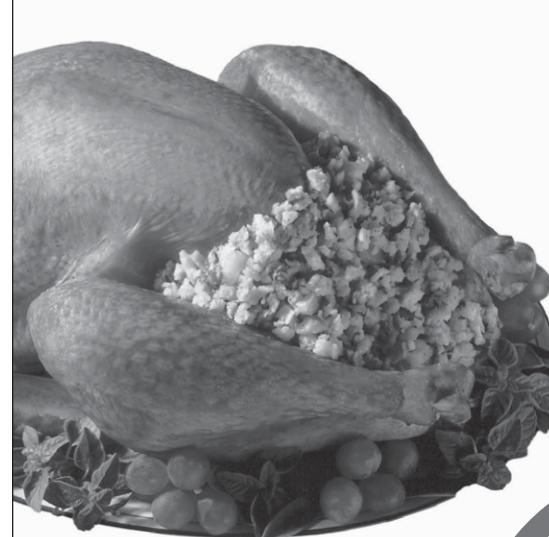
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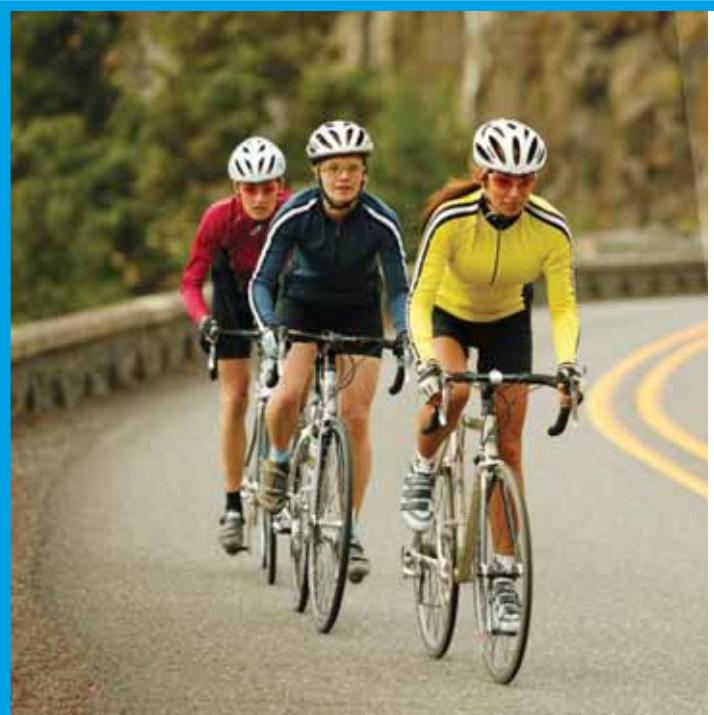
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# Streetwise

**Q:** How do you feel about the newly opened portion of Valley Avenue and the traffic circles?

Asked Around Town



**Cora Rapine**

Stay-at-Home Mom

I love the new Valley Avenue extension that connects the south of town. Not very many people know about it so it isn't very well traveled. The circles sure slow the traffic down which is a bit of an inconvenience, but necessary. It's a nice little secret route.



**Mike Kuhfal**

Principal at Hearst Elementary

I am pleased that it has given our community more avenues to get to and from school. We have families that are encouraging their children to walk or ride bikes to school. It is much safer than traveling on Bernal.



**Linda Traurig**

Realtor

I love it. The traffic has lightened up because there are more routes available. Before, the only way to get to this side of town was straight up Bernal. The traffic circles are necessary to slow traffic and encourage pedestrians. The extension was long overdue.



**Jerry Rosenblatt**

Owner of Crown Trophy

So far I have used it a few times. I cross town several times a week to the Sports Park. The extension really speeds the trip up. I had no idea it existed. I just found it by accident one day and thought, "I wonder where this goes." It ended up being quite a convenient find!



**Toya Stevens**

Tennis and Recreation Monitor

I drive over to the elementary school to pick up tutoring students and the new road has made that much shorter—no more U-turns. I don't know if it's necessarily quicker because of the circles. I understand the necessity for the neighborhood, but it is inconvenient for those looking for a quick short cut or a main traffic route through town.

# Newsfront

## News Digest

### TV30 needs heroes

Community television station TV30 is looking for unsung heroes to feature in a live news segment each week. "The Tri-Valley's Heroes," already airing at 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday on channel 30, will showcase people in the area who do great things without credit. To nominate a hero, email news@TV30.org.

### Hayashi named Person of the Year

Assemblymember Mary Hayashi (D-Hayward) recently received the honor of "Person of the Year" by the Korean American Chamber of Commerce of the Northern Pacific Coast. Founded in 1967, the chamber advocates on the behalf of a diverse group of businesses and promotes positive relations between the Republic of Korea and the United States. Hayashi, a Korean-American, was elected to the assembly in 2006 and has worked on Asian women's health issues and is the author of "Far From Home, Shattering the Myth of the Model Minority."

### DVDs being collected for troops

Operation DVD is in progress at The Rose Hotel. New and used DVDs are being collected and sent to service personnel overseas and in military hospitals as well as to families whose loved ones are away from home on active duty. Donations may be dropped in a box in the hotel lobby, 807 Main St., where they will be sent to the distribution hub in Southern California. The project has shipped more than 500,000 DVDs to date, which is half of its target goal.

### Mother's club announces leaders

The Twin Valley Mothers of Twins Club held its annual officer elections Nov. 13 and the results are in. Srilatha Gollapalli, President, of San Ramon; Theresa Waschua, Vice President, of Livermore; Ruth Wiley, Vice President of Programs, of San Ramon; Lori Burfield, Treasurer, of San Leandro; Susan Hobbs, Assistant Treasurer, of Pleasanton; Julie Corbett, Recording Secretary, of Danville; Deb Hart-Hugill, Corresponding Secretary, of San Ramon. The club meets the second Tuesday at John Knox Presbyterian Church, 7421 Amarillo Road, Dublin. For details, visit [www.tvmotc.com](http://www.tvmotc.com) or call 948-0004.

## 'Abused by Priests' group urges church to reverse local parish appointment

*But diocese backs Greene as CCOP's new leader*

by Jeb Bing

**A** national organization whose mission is to identify abusive priests and warn congregations where they are still practicing plans to step up its efforts to deny a Pleasanton cleric his appointment to lead the Catholic Community of Pleasanton.

Joey Piscitelli, the Northern California Director for Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP), who demonstrated outside St. Augustine Catholic Church two weeks ago, took his group to the front door of Bishop Allen Vigneron of the Catholic Diocese of Oakland

last Friday to protest the decision to name the Rev. Padraig (Patrick) Greene to the top post. Greene is scheduled to succeed the Rev. Dan Danielson, longtime parish leader of the Catholic Community that includes St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church as well as St. Augustine. Danielson is scheduled to continue celebrating Mass for parishioners through the Christmas holiday, and to officially turn his duties as parochial administrator over to Greene on New Year's Day.

But Piscitelli said that a priest who allegedly committed an indecent act in front of an Oakland police officer at a park shouldn't be appointed parish priest for the Catholic Community of Pleasanton.

A police report obtained by the Pleasanton

Weekly (available online) states Greene was arrested at 1:50 p.m. on March 2, 1999 at a park in Oakland for performing lewd acts on himself in a public bathroom. Oakland police officer "M. Oliver" was assigned to work in plain clothes at the North Oakland Sports Center and entered the men's restroom and observed Greene committing an indecent act at a urinal. After a brief conversation, Oliver arrested Greene.

The charge was later reduced to a misdemeanor or by Judge Cecilia Castellanos and ultimately dropped after Greene agreed to participate in a six-month residential treatment program at the St. Michael's Community in St. Louis, Mo. Billed as "a healing place for priests and brothers," St. Michael's, according to an official

(continued on page 10)



Urging voters to decline to sign the Oak Grove referendum and initiative being promoted nearby, these representatives of the Keep Our Park Committee staff an information booth at Tully's Plaza downtown. From left, they are City Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio, Howard Neely, Angela Ramirez Holmes and Councilman Matt Sullivan. A few feet away, the anti-Oak Grove petitioners were seeking some of the 4,000 signatures from registered Pleasanton voters that they need by Dec. 6 to qualify their petition for a referendum on Oak Grove to overturn the council's approval of the project. Information on both points can be found at [www.keepourpark.org](http://www.keepourpark.org) and [www.SavePleasantonHills.com](http://www.SavePleasantonHills.com).

## Presbyterians bid farewell to Mirador church

*Congregation met there for four decades*

by Jeb Bing

**A**fter more than four decades at its Mirador Drive location, the Pleasanton Presbyterian Church will hold its final services this Sunday.

The special services at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. will include remembrances and a celebration of the people who have been members or who have been served by the church in its 42 years at 4400 Mirador Drive.

"We've planned a celebration of gratitude and thanksgiving for the ways God has blessed people during our time at Mirador,"

said Senior Pastor Mike Barris.

The St. Mary and St. John Egyptian Orthodox Church purchased the property last fall, but allowed the Presbyterians to continue to worship there while a new facility is built. That new church complex is under construction and already highly visible at the corner of Valley Avenue and Busch Road in the Ironwood community.

Until work is completed, the Presbyterians will hold worship services and Sunday school at the Carr America Conference Center, 4400 Rosewood Drive. A blended worship service with a traditional influence will be held at 9 a.m. followed by a contemporary service at 10:30 a.m. that includes Sunday school for

(continued on page 7)



Girl Scouts from troops 30986, 30855 and 330657 show the CFL (compact fluorescent light) bulbs that they were handing out all over the Tri-Valley during the month of November.

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# Welcome to Pleasanton's Newest Park



Photos by Becky Dennis. Taken as hikers walk south from the future staging area in the park at Oak Grove, a park TWICE the size of Augustin Bernal.

## Let's Not Give It BACK!

The new park at Oak Grove is 496 acres of oak woodland habitat with 12,000 oak trees.

Please do NOT sign the referendum. Without Oak Grove, the City won't get the park. Pleasanton will lose public access to the southeast hills and lose conservation easements that will ensure that the open space is preserved forever.

We support the public's right to use our open space.

Don't Sign the Petitions! [www.KeepOurPark.org](http://www.KeepOurPark.org)

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  
Pete McCloskey, former Congressman  
Kathy Narum, Planning Commissioner  
Arne Olson, Planning Commissioner  
Jennifer Pearce, Planning Commissioner  
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Trish Maas, former Planning Commissioner  
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Ted Kinzer, Parks and Recreation Commissioner  
Kurt Kummer, Parks and Recreation Commissioner  
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Jerry Pentin, Parks and Recreation Commissioner

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Joe Jones, Housing Commissioner, Trails Ad Hoc  
David Stark, Housing Commissioner  
Pat & Marcia Kernan, PUSD School Board Trustee  
Jim Ott, PUSD School Board Trustee  
Dolores Bengston, former Parks & Rec Dept director  
Jocelyn Combs, former EBRPD director  
Christine Steiner, Alameda Co Housing Commr  
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  
Ward Belding, Pleasanton resident  
Jack & Flo Bras, Pleasanton residents  
Mary Jane & Tom Casper, Vintage Hills residents  
Rich Cimino, Audubon Society

Catherine Consolino, Park advocate  
Dan Faustina, Pleasanton resident  
Tom & Sue Fox, Kottinger Ranch residents  
Troy Grooms, Pleasanton resident  
Kathleen & Bronco Hinek, Kottinger Ranch residents  
Skip Hinsley, local business owner  
Ron Hyde, retired Superior Court Judge  
Pete MacDonald, Pleasanton resident  
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 Sensiba, Pleasanton resident  
John Shurtliff, Pleasanton resident  
Keith & Lisa Symons, Kottinger Ranch residents  
Sandi Thorne, Pleasanton resident  
Robert Tucknott, Pleasanton resident  
James Van Dyke, Vintage Hills resident

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

**KEEP OUR PARK**  
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## Presbyterian

(continued from page 5)

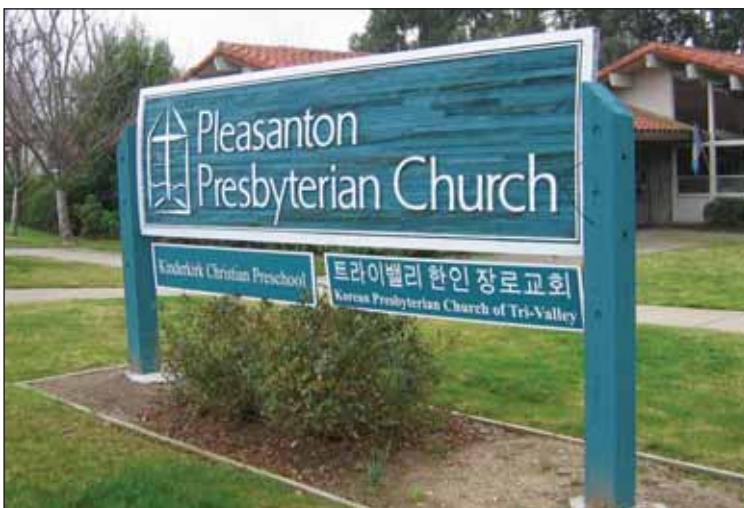
children as well as a nursery.

The Advent season services will be held in the Tassajara Room at Carr America, with a 6 p.m. Christmas Eve service on Dec. 24.

The new Ironwood campus will include a full-service pre-school and playground on a 6.2-acre campus designed as "a church within a park."

"We are excited to see the first phase of our new campus taking shape," said Barris. "The Ironwood location is central to the Tri-Valley and will allow us to serve more people."

For more information, call 925-846-4426 or check online at [www.pleasantonpres.org](http://www.pleasantonpres.org). ■



This sign marking the four-decade-long location of the Pleasanton Presbyterian Church will soon come down as the congregation turns the church facility over to its new owners, the St. Mary and St. John Egyptian Orthodox Church. The Presbyterians are building a multi-million-dollar new campus at Busch Road and Valley Avenue but, until it is finished, will hold services at the Carr America conference center, 4400 Rosewood Drive.

## McKewon court hearing rescheduled for Jan. 9

*19-year-old faces gross vehicular manslaughter, felony DUI charges*

by Janet Pelletier

An Alameda County judge granted the driver involved in a head-on collision that killed 19-year-old Laurel Williams a continuance Tuesday, scheduling her next hearing for Jan. 9.

The driver, 19-year-old Katie McKewon, was arrested Nov. 7 on

charges of gross vehicular manslaughter and felony drunken driving in connection with Williams' death and critical injuries suffered by the 70-year-old driver of the other vehicle involved in the crash. The accident occurred on Oct. 20 along Foothill Road, just north of Highland Oaks Drive.

McKewon's attorney, Kirk Elliot, requested the six-week continuance because he said he needed more time to gather evidence for the case. The defendant has not yet made a plea of guilty or not guilty.

Elliot said McKewon has not posted bail. She remains in Santa Rita Jail in Dublin. ■



### Treats for the troops

Students at Vintage Hills Elementary school recently gathered a whopping 500 pounds of candy that will be donated to military serving overseas. The candy drive was organized by Brenda Bush, parent of Nick Bush, who is in Mrs. Hilton's fourth grade class. Students said they didn't mind donating their Halloween candy because they wanted to wish soldiers a happy holiday and thank them for their service. Student Jonah Kane said "we wanted to donate because they don't really have the time to go out and trick-or-treat because they're in Iraq." The children also handwrote cards. The candy and notes will be distributed by the East Bay Blue Star Moms. The boxes were donated by UPS.

## Attention Advertisers:

There will be **early Holiday Deadlines** for the following issues

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## Newsfront

# Commissioners say 'we do' to bridal shop

*Mother and daughter will operate with a non-exempt home occupancy permit*

by Janet Pelletier

The first home-based bridal shop will soon be operating in the city after the Planning Commission voted 4-1, with Commissioner Arne Olson dissenting, to approve it.

Commissioners Kathy Narum, Jennifer Pearce, Anne Fox and Phil Blank voted in favor of the business at the Nov. 14 meeting.

The proposal was made by Rebecca Andrus and her mother, Wilma Thomas, who will run the store out of Thomas' home at 3463 Windsor Court, where Andrus lives.

The pair will cater to a niche market—dresses worn by brides marrying in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. LDS church wedding dresses are required to have sleeves, a high neckline and high backline.

The business will operate under a non-exempt home occupancy permit. The permit is not a type of conditional use permit, which is what businesses are required to have. Because the shop will be operated out of a residence, it follows a different set of criteria, according to city planner Leslie Mendez.

"There are two types of home occupations per the city code: exempt and non-exempt. To qualify for an exempt home occupation, (they) should be able to check off all the requirements including no clients coming to the house, no outside employees coming to work at the house, use of only one room for the home business, etc.," Mendez said. "Generally, exempt home occupations are for production of arts and crafts and/or office uses."

However, the bridal shop doesn't meet all the requirements for an exempt permit, so it falls under the non-exempt category. Non-exempt permits are fairly uncommon. The city has approved 12 of 21 applications since the city began allowing them in 2001, according to a city staff report. Of those approved, four were for lessons within a home, four were for service-type

businesses, three were related to arts and crafts and one was for a stud service of Persian cats. The staff report says the bridal shop proposal meets less requirements than any other non-exempt home occupancy permitted operations.

As part of the commission's approval, there will be a sunset clause of one year, meaning the city will review the permit in one year's time to determine if it will continue to be allowed or not.

Commissioner Blank said he was having trouble supporting the proposal because it met so little of the conditions, including: no one other than residents of the house can be employed; materials, equipment, stock or supplies cannot occupy more than one room or more than 50 square feet of an accessory building or garage; it cannot create excessive pedestrian or vehicular traffic in the residential area; and no deliveries other than those made by the permittee may be made.

"There's a point in which you have to say if there's this many conditions of approval and there's this many exceptions (to them), maybe it doesn't really belong," Blank said.

But after it was apparent that three of the five commissioners were supportive of the permit, Blank gave his approval in a final vote, after a condition was added requiring that delivery trucks one ton or larger would not be allowed.

Andrus told the commission she would limit client's appointments and customers will be asked to park in the driveway. A home day care business currently resides at 3444 Windsor Court, which already creates traffic, she has said, and weekday appointments would be held at night when day care hours are over.

But Jaime Zile, owner of J'aime's Bridal on West Neal Street, said allowing the business to operate would set a precedent for other retail-oriented home occupations. As a downtown business owner, she said she encourages competi-

tion and felt that Andrus would do well serving such a niche market, but allowing the sale of wedding dresses from a home would undercut her shop, which has large overhead operating costs, such as rent.

"We don't want to prevent people from going into business—that's not the goal," Blank said. "But I think supporting the downtown is important."

But Thomas said she didn't see how their home business would affect a downtown bridal shop's and added that they would be selling to a select group of brides.

Commissioner Narum said she didn't believe the approval meant that commission would be setting a precedent because the city reviews each permit application on a case-by-case basis.

"It was, I would say, the most difficult vote I've made or had to make (since I've been) on the commission, in about seven or eight months," she said.

Narum said she understands the need to support retail businesses which operate out of storefronts, but added that the applicants were honest about their intentions and were willing to make concessions to their operation.

She added that she didn't believe traffic would have as much of an impact as a music studio or day care would, and the city already allows those such uses in neighborhoods, including the day care on Windsor Court.

The city received one email from a neighbor against the proposal and one email from another neighbor in support, according to the staff report. Andrus told the commission she's spoken to many neighbors who have said they approve of her business.

Andrus will be required to obtain a business license, Mendez said.

The commission's decision can be appealed to the City Council by Nov. 29. As of press time, no appeal had been made by anyone from the public. ■

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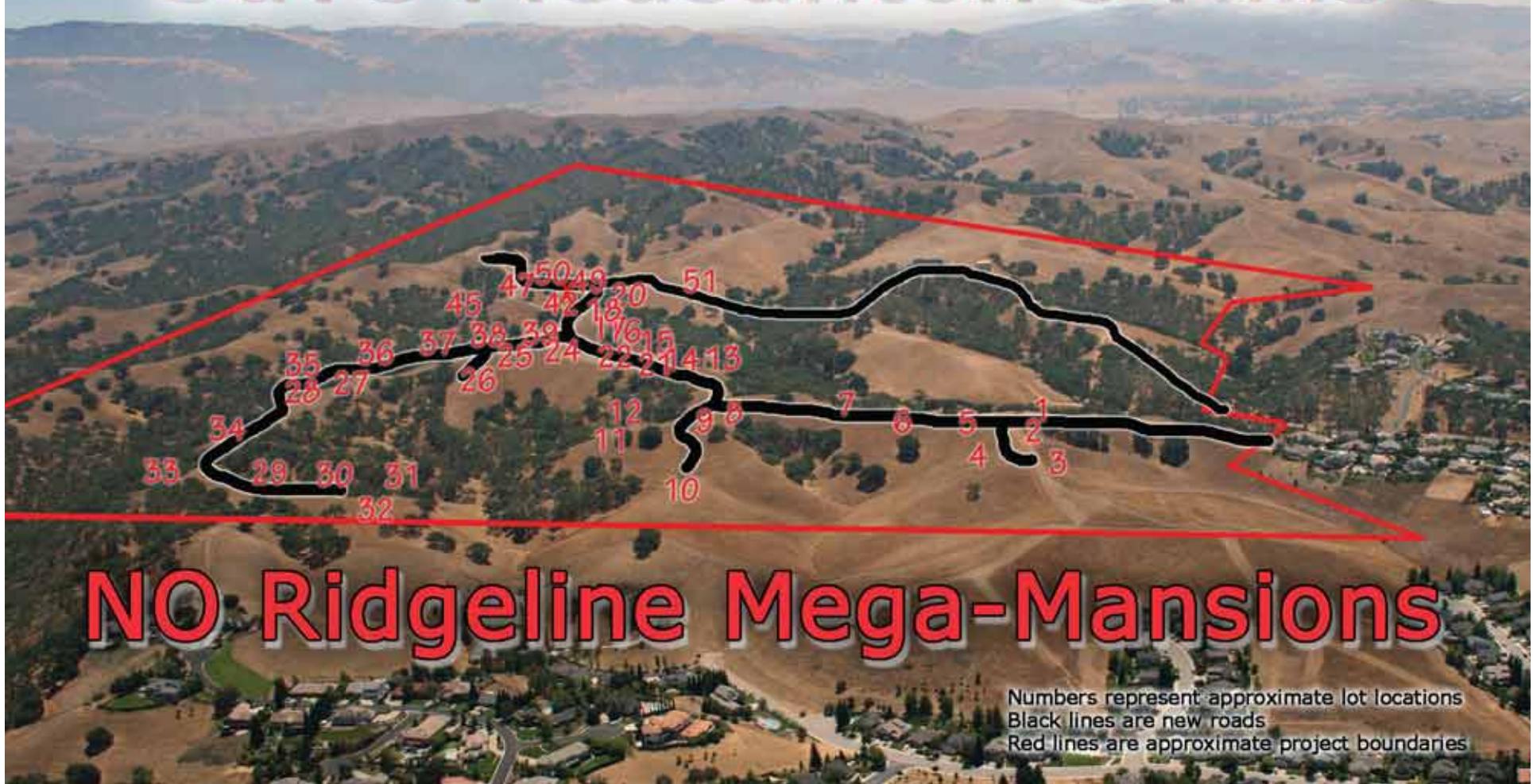
Each office is independently  
owned and operated.

## Blankets for babies

Sue Connolly, Kate Teague and Cleo Foster stand with 300 blankets from last year's donations. The group is still collecting handmade blankets—quilts, knitted or crocheted between 24 and 36 inches—to be given to babies at the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford University. Contact Foster at 918-2986 or [kfzcleo@comcast.net](mailto:kfzcleo@comcast.net) or Connolly at 426-4307 or [sconnolly@pleasanton.k12.ca.us](mailto:sconnolly@pleasanton.k12.ca.us).

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# Save Pleasanton's Hills



## NO Ridgeline Mega-Mansions

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

Join thousands who support putting this important development on the ballot in 2008. Signing the initiative and referendum gives you the right to vote. **You can make a difference, volunteer to help!**

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

### A Partial list of supporters:

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This ad paid for by concerned residents of Pleasanton

# Elderly care facility ruffles residents' feathers

*City deals with compliance issues, owner says he's trying to be good neighbor*

by Janet Pelletier

Over the last few weeks, a single family home on Singletree Court has slowly been morphing into a care facility for seniors.

But residents who live on the Val Vista cul-de-sac say they are concerned about traffic, noise, property values and the aesthetic look of the house. They're also upset that they found out about the owner's plans only after work had already begun.

Joe DeRossett, whose house neighbors the home at 6839 Singletree Court, began a discussion about the facility when he posted a topic on the Pleasanton Weekly's online forum Town Square in late October. Since then, the topic's generated 76 comments.

"I noticed they were doing a lot of building in the back," DeRossett said. "Once they started doing the front, we started thinking that something was going on there."

Residential elderly care facilities with six or less occupants are licensed by the state and owners are not required to notify the public about them beforehand. There are 22 elderly care facilities of this type in Pleasanton, and another four, including the Singletree Court residence, are pending applications. Another of the four pending is nearby on Singletree Way.

"We have no control over them and we don't necessarily know that they're coming in," said city Planning Director Jerry Iserson.

DeRossett said he's concerned about safety with the facility being located on a cul-de-sac and the potential for liability.

"Clearly, you can only have one car pass at a time through the entrance because of the way the opening is," he said. "There's a serious issue for kids and the court is all families with kids."

In response, Iserson said "there's really nothing we could do other than what we would normally do if someone in a neighbor-

hood has traffic concerns—they can talk to the traffic engineer and see if there's specific mitigations that we could do or remedies that we could work with them on."

But the property's owner, Steve Chou, said he doesn't believe traffic will be an issue at all. Chou owns similar facilities with the name Welcome Home Senior Residence in Dublin and Walnut Creek and has two pending applications for homes in Alamo and Danville.

"There's not a lot of visitors," he said. "Occasionally, on holidays we may get some, just like a normal house when you have friends over for a gathering, but most of the time there's not going to be a lot. It's not like a day care where there are going to be people dropping off their kids in the morning and picking them up at night."

He added that seniors are much quieter than children.

DeRossett and some of his neighbors spoke to the Planning Commission last month and to the City Council Nov. 6 about their concerns. The city's building department entered the foray the same day as the council meeting, when two building officials visited the home under construction. Chief Building Official George Thomas said he, along with Senior Inspector Les Lyons, went to check out the home and the work crews were performing. While the home's owner had gone the proper route by acquiring a building permit and listing the scope of work, officials noticed building code violations.

"We posted a stop work notice for a couple reasons: there were no inspections that had been called at that time, they had already built almost the entire ramps and the ramps were out of compliance with the approved plans and also out of compliance with the approved code," Thomas said.

The wooden decking for wheelchair access in the front of the house was less than the 12-foot setback requirement; there was miss-



Emily Atwood

A home on Singletree Court that is being converted into a senior care facility has neighbors concerned.

ing flat leveling work at the end of the ramps and there wasn't enough head clearance from stairs to the garage, among other items, Thomas said.

When building officials went back on a second visit, the notice was gone, although it's not clear who removed it, so they put a pink notice saying the structure was dangerous and the public should not enter the premises, Thomas added.

Chou said his contractor didn't follow the plan he was instructed to and that was the reason the construction continued.

The city is now allowing crews to continue their work at Singletree Court, including modifying construction work to meet city codes.

DeRossett said he's gone to four different court locations in the city where there are elderly facilities and said the homes are less noticeable than the Singletree Court one.

He said he doesn't understand why the

project wasn't required to go before the city's Design Review Board. But Iserson said these types of projects don't normally have to do that if they meet criteria, however, it can be requested for review, as the Planning Commission has now recommended.

Chou said he's been surprised at some of the negative feedback he's gotten from neighbors.

"We believe we are benefiting the community and every family has seniors in their family," he said. "I don't see why people are so against it. We are encouraged by the state in the Safety and Health Code 1569.82 and 1569.85 that the state is encouraging facilities with six occupants or less in communities."

Chou said while he did have a resident complain about his Walnut Creek facility, he was able to resolve things.

Chou plans to hold an open house for neighbors once the work is completed. ■

## Priest

(continued from page 5)

report also obtained by the Weekly, provided individual sessions for Greene that included exercise, sexuality and interpersonal relationships and spirituality.

In a final report signed by the Rev. Joseph McNamara, Dr. Jack Croughan and Robert Furey, program director, Greene received a clean bill of health.

"We feel as a result of Father Greene's progress here, he can return to the community and be gainfully employed," the report said. "We believe there is a significant decrease of risk of any reoccurrence of the kinds of conduct which precipitated his admission and treatment here."

But Piscitelli disagrees.

"Our concern is that a man with a history of this kind of behavior is not the best choice to lead a community as pastor of both Catholic churches in Pleasanton, and have access to children," Piscitelli said.

SNAP is an organization of men and women who claim they were sexually abused by spiritual elders (Catholic priests, brothers, nuns, ministers, teachers and others).

The Rev. Mark Wiesner, spokesman for the Catholic Diocese of Oakland, said Bishop Vigneron, who was out of town at the time of the SNAP protests, and the diocese, are standing behind Greene because they think his arrest was "a single isolated incident" and he underwent "therapy and spiritual renewal."

"We were well aware of his past and believe he is doing well now," Wiesner said.

He added that no minors were present when Greene was arrested for lewd conduct at the North Oakland Regional Sports Center on Broadway and the charges against him were dismissed after he agreed to undergo therapy.

However, Piscitelli said the fact that Greene wasn't convicted of any wrongdoing "doesn't mean he was innocent" and he thinks it's unlikely the incident was the only time Greene, who worked at Christ the King Parish in Pleasant Hill at the time, behaved inappropriately.

He added that, "There's a high probability that kids were there at the time," although the

police report on the incident doesn't mention any children.

Piscitelli said Oakland police staked out the park because it was suspected of being a place where men solicited sex with youths.

Piscitelli, who with other SNAP members handed out fliers to parishioners at St. Augustine, said only one parishioner was aware of Greene's past and the others were "shocked." He thinks concerns about Greene "will escalate" and contend that some parishioners already have quit the church.

He is also planning to distribute fliers outside Pleasanton schools next week when classes resume, although he has been warned that would be illegal unless the school district approves and he and his group could be arrested otherwise.

Although SNAP did not demonstrate this past Sunday or during the week, parishioners and the church council huddled over discussions about Greene's future. Postings on the Pleasanton Weekly online Town Square forum found opinions divided between those who believe Greene long ago completed therapy successfully and those who think the stigma of the arrest and its current publicity

will make it difficult for him to assume the leadership position.

Danielson said the fliers are "misleading" and that said SNAP members "often view the clergy and the church through their own painful difficult experiences."

"This is understandable but it can lead to a misinterpretation of the facts," Danielson added. "Father Greene was and is filled with shame and great remorse over this incident. No doubt the hurt he experienced in his own life and his subsequent ways of dealing with it have contributed to his remarkably effective ministry."

In a statement, Vigneron said, "Father Greene has performed exemplary ministry in the diocese" and "there have been no further incidents" since his arrest.

A text version of the actual 1999 Oakland police report has been posted online at [www.pleasantonweekly.com](http://www.pleasantonweekly.com). Once there, visitors can go to the Town Square forum and click on "Police Report on the Rev. Padraig (Patrick) Greene."

The report is available only to registered users. ■

## Scouts

(continued from page 5)

helping people and the environment.

The Girl Scouts of Northern California planned to distribute

at least 160,000 CFLs provided by California Public Utilities Commission. The project is in accordance with The Climate Project, a non-profit organization founded by Al Gore to increase awareness of the climate crisis.

Marina Park, CEO of Girl Scouts

of Northern California, said the giveaway would teach the scouts about how small changes can have a global impact.

For more information about the Girl Scouts of Northern California, visit [www.girlscoutsnorcal.org](http://www.girlscoutsnorcal.org).

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# Community Pulse

## Police Bulletin

### Man charged with felony drunk driving

Pleasanton police arrested a 53-year-old man Nov. 16 on a felony drunk driving charge following an October crash that seriously injured a 9-year-old girl.

Robert Patrick Monaghan's blood alcohol level was over three times the legal limit when he rear-ended a car stopped at a red light on Owens Drive near Rosewood Drive at about 6 p.m., police said.

Monaghan was driving a Chevy Tahoe and the car he hit, a Toyota Camry, contained a family of four, police said. One member in the family, a 9-year-old girl, suffered multiple head injuries and was airlifted to Eden Medical Center. Police said she remains there in critical condition.

Monaghan was driving with his 4-year-old son, who was not injured in the crash, police said. No one else was seriously injured.

Monaghan was arrested soon after the crash but was later released pending investigation and foren-

sic results, police said. He was booked at Santa Rita Jail.

### Woman robbed at gunpoint in mall parking lot

At 8 p.m. Monday night a Pleasanton woman was robbed at gunpoint while walking to her car in the Stoneridge Shopping Center parking lot, according to police.

The woman exited Nordstrom and headed to her vehicle. A gray, four-door older model Acura or Honda Accord pulled up next to her and the passenger allegedly displayed a small black pistol. Police said the man then demanded her purse, cell phone and shopping bag, which she reportedly handed over.

They fled in the vehicle.

Two suspects are wanted. The driver was described as a black female with light skin and freckles and dark shoulder length curly hair. She was wearing a black jacket.

The passenger was described as a black male with short dark hair and no facial hair. He was wearing a dark sweater with a pastel print.

Anyone with information about this incident should call the Pleasanton Police Department, 931-5100.

### Police Report

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

#### Nov. 9

##### • Theft:

-1:14 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft  
-1:52 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft  
-5:00 p.m. in the 4300 block of Addison Way; theft of lost property

##### • Vandalism:

-1:47 p.m. at the intersection of Neal and First streets; worth less than \$400

##### • Burglary:

-1:16 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; shoplifting

#### Nov. 10

##### • Theft:

-1:22 a.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Hopyard Road; forgery

-11:52 a.m. in the 3200 block of Picadilly Court; petty theft

-2:18 p.m. in the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue; stolen vehicle

##### • Drug/alcohol violations:

-12:56 a.m. in the 900 block of Main Street; intoxicated while riding a bicycle

-6:38 p.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge Drive and Trevor Parkway; DUI

-10:17 p.m. at the intersection of First and Neal streets; public drunkenness

-11:12 p.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge Drive and Hopyard Road; driving with marijuana

-11:28 p.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive; public drunkenness

#### Nov. 11

##### • Stolen vehicle:

-6:06 p.m. in the 6600 block of Riddell Street

##### • Drug/alcohol violations:

-1:35 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Stoneridge

Drive; paraphernalia possession, DUI

-4:59 a.m. at the intersection of Birch Creek Drive and Vine Street; public drunkenness

##### • Lewd and lascivious act:

-1:08 p.m. in the 5500 block of Sonoma Drive

##### • Assault:

-12:06 a.m. in the 3000 block of Hopyard Road

#### Nov. 12

##### • Grand theft:

-7:57 p.m. in the 1100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

##### • Burglary:

-8:25 a.m. in the 8100 block of Ensenada Drive

##### • Public drunkenness:

-12:59 a.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road

##### • Mental health danger:

-12:29 a.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

#### and eight Good Conduct Medals.

He was honorably discharged Nov. 30, 1971 as a Quarter Master First Class.

After diligently serving his country, Mr. Henshaw joined the Pleasanton Unified School District, where he was a warehouse manager for 18 years. In 1989, he retired to enjoy life with his family and friends. He was also a member of St. Raymond's Catholic Church in Dublin for the past 23 years.

Mr. Henshaw is survived by his wife, Helen Catherine (Duarte), whom he married on April 30, 1949. In the 58 years he enjoyed by Helen's side, they had six children: Tim, Terry, Marty, Jennifer, Kit and Juliet—who he is also survived by. He also is survived by 16 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by

parents and his brother Robert. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the American Cancer Society at [www.acs.org](http://www.acs.org).

### Eleanore Hammer

Eleanore Hammer died Nov. 13 in Pleasanton at the age of 83.

Mrs. Hammer was born March 1, 1924 in Ironwood, Mich.

She was a homemaker. She is survived by her sons, Mike and Jeff Hammer; daughters, Natalie Aldridge and Linda Garnham; brother, Chip Korpela; grandchildren Sharon, Bouton, CJ Hammer, Katie Riggs and Kemper Garnham and great-grandchild Emilie Bliss.

She was preceded in death by her husband Natt K. Hammer, who died in 1973.

## Obituaries

### William David Henshaw

William "Bill" David Henshaw died Nov. 7 after a short illness. He was 83.

Mr. Henshaw was born April 5, 1924 in Cincinnati, Ohio to William and Catherine (Houlihan) Henshaw. He served in the U.S. Navy for 28 years, from 1942-1971, earning numerous medals including: the World War II Victory Medal. The Vietnam Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the American Theatre Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Medal, the African & Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the China Service Medal, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon



## WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

### Planning Commission

- The November 28, 2007 Planning Commission meeting has been cancelled. The next Planning Commission meeting will be held on December 12, 2007.

### Trails Ad Hoc Committee

- The November 26, 2007 Trails Ad Hoc Committee meeting has been cancelled. The next Trails Ad Hoc Committee meeting will be held on December 10, 2007.

### 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.

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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

### 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)

Give now  
to help others  
in our  
community

# Holiday Fund

by Jeb Bing

**E**ight nonprofits have been selected as this year's recipients of the fifth annual Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund, the community-wide campaign that starts today to provide needed funding for vital local nonprofits.

Last year, the Holiday Fund exceeded its \$100,000 goal, raising \$112,419 in direct contributions and matching funds. Each of the targeted nonprofit organizations serving the needs of the community—six in all—received \$18,737 to help them continue their work this year.

"We're seeing a stronger economy this year, yet the needs by the charitable organizations are greater than ever," said Gina Channell-Allen, president of the Pleasanton Weekly. "For that reason, we are raising our sights again with a goal for this year's Holiday Fund of \$150,000. Contributors from past years have already donated more than \$17,000 to help us launch our campaign early."

The eight organizations that will benefit from the 2007-08 campaign are Axis Community Health, Hope Hospice, Open Heart Kitchen, Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation, Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley, Tri-Valley Haven, Valley Humane Society and the Emergency Room expansion program at ValleyCare Medical Center.

"This year, the Pleasanton Weekly will be able to increase the contribution our readers, advertisers and others make by 100 percent because of the partnership we have established with the Tri-Valley Community Foundation," Channell-Allen said.

"The foundation has agreed to provide matching funds to our campaign drive, so for every \$1 contributed, another \$1 will be given to these local organizations."

Unlike most other fundraising drives by individual organizations, the Holiday Fund has no administrative expenses or other overhead. The Pleasanton Weekly donates all the support services so all money raised can support local nonprofit groups.

All funds are held in trust by the Tri-Valley Community Foundation and are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

David Rice, president of the Tri-Valley Community Foundation, said giving to the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund this year is more important than ever.

"Sure, the economy is strong, but not everyone in Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley are seeing the benefits," he said. "Some have found themselves over-extended in the loans they took out on homes a year or two ago that they really couldn't afford and never should have bought. Others work for companies that have significantly increased employee contributions to meet the rising costs of group health care, and some firms have dropped health care coverage altogether."

"Although Pleasanton is ranked as one of the wealthiest cities of its size in the nation, there are thousands who rely on many of these organizations for individual and family assistance, emergency aid when they're suddenly without jobs and health care," Rice added. "Not everyone is wealthy here, not everyone has a job, not everyone has health insurance," he added. "These are the people who need our help."

He pointed to increased requirements by the nonprofits to meet the needs of low-level-paying jobs.

"Whether we're employers or among the employed or in business for ourselves, each of us has been affected by fast-rising costs—in health care, for gasoline, for basic food and milk," Rice said. "Those on the bottom rung of the employment ladder may have a job, but they don't earn enough to meet these ongoing higher living costs. They often have inadequate or no health insurance at all. Some have lost their

jobs or their benefits, or both, because of corporate downsizing, layoffs and benefit reductions. Just this month, more than 1,000 have been laid off by employers."

Open Heart Kitchen, for example, expects to serve 178,200 meals in its current 2007-08 fiscal year, according to Nancy Richardson, its president. She said 11,500 of those meals will be served at its Pleasanton location at Trinity Lutheran Church and another 112,150 at Ridge View Commons for seniors. Open Heart also distributes 90,000 box lunches each weekend to elementary school children to take home on Fridays.

"Open Heart Kitchen is often the 'bridge' that helps a family stay on its feet from week to week," Richardson said.

Axis Community Health, another recipient of this year's campaign, is Tri-Valley's sole provider of medical care for the area's working families who do not have health insurance, with a budget of \$925,000 for pediatric services, alone.

"Last year we provided more than 4,000 pediatric medical visits for 2,500 low income children at an average visit cost of \$225," said Sue Compton, chief executive officer. "For the past year, we also have been enrolling more than 200 new patients each month, which far exceeds our resources."

Tri-Valley Haven offers a 30-bed shelter for victims of domestic violence, a 16-bed homeless family shelter, a 24-hour crisis line, rape crisis center, group and individual counseling, two weekly restraining order clinics, a food pantry and community education.

"Funds from the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund will be utilized to support the Life Skills program at our shelter, and to help with the cost of utilities at the shelter," said Vicki Thompson, associate director. "Our annual PG&E bill for the shelter is nearly \$20,000 and these utilities are seldom funded by private foundations. We depend on the community—and the Holiday Fund—to keep the lights on."

Another recipient of this year's Holiday Fund will be the Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley, which became an independent, nonprofit organization a little over a year ago. It offers a variety of services at no cost to seniors or to their families throughout the Tri-Valley.

"As we are all aware, the U.S. population along with Pleasanton's is aging in greater numbers," said LaVerne Spotorno, who with her husband, Al, is on the Support Program's board of directors.

"A report released last week states that Americans will enjoy an average life expectancy of at least 79 years, and many will live even longer," she added. "Before 2030, our senior population may very well comprise the majority age group in our nation and community."

The programs provided by Senior Support include health maintenance, nutrition, fitness, disease prevention, partners-in-safety, in-home counseling, friendly visiting programs and nurses on the staff who regularly visit clients.

This year's Holiday Fund also will provide money to help

expand ValleyCare Medical Center's emergency room. The ER was built in 1991 and has only 4,000 square feet of floor space when it needs 10,000.

"We see 26,000 patients a year in the emergency room and it was built to handle 13,000," said ValleyCare's vice president Ken Mercer.

It will cost \$6.7 million to replace the facility and upgrade the equipment, with the first phase of development scheduled to start in January. Contributions from the Holiday Fund will help get that started, Mercer said.

Two other organizations are also slated to receive funding assistance this year from the Pleasanton Weekly's Holiday Fund: PPIE and Hope Hospice.

Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) is a community-based organization whose mission is to enhance learning experiences for students of the Pleasanton Unified School District through a partnership of business, education, and the community. Its foundation offers education grants for employees of the Pleasanton school district to fund projects that are student-focused, that promote creativity and innovative thinking, and that offer expanded learning opportunities to students.

"Contributions through the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund will help fund

these grants," said Debi Covello, executive director.

Last May, PPIE awarded grants totaling \$32,000 to 20 teachers for their education projects, raising to \$500,000 the amount awarded over the program's 17 years.

As for Hope Hospice, members of the Pleasanton and Tri-Valley communities have turned to this organization since 1980 for a special kind of health care. Hospice care is unique because it works to not only meet the dying patient's physical needs, but supports their emotional, social, and spiritual needs as well. Hope Hospice care is provided regardless of the ability to pay and relies on contributions such as those raised by the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund to provide services.

Its mission is to provide compassionate, quality end-of-life care and grief support to patients and families. Hope Hospice and its volunteers step in when medical science can no longer add days to life, and what matters is the quality of life that can be added to each day.

Last but not least is help for our furry friends who give so much to us in return. Once again, the Valley Humane Society is on the list of recipients for the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund.

This all-volunteer group, with its mission to educate others on responsible pet ownership, recently moved into temporary quarters on Nevada Street and is in need of funding to complete a permanent structure that will provide more space for

## The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund

The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund was created to provide financial support from our readers for a select group of local nonprofit organizations to help alleviate the needs that exist, despite our community's prosperity. This marks the fifth year of the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund. It provides an opportunity to aid local groups at a time when the numbers of those without jobs or with low-paying jobs and few if any health benefits have increased.

The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund drive could not exist without the help of the Tri-Valley Community Foundation and its generous donors. This will enable us to double your donation and allow your gift of \$1 to total \$2 to the nonprofits. An added benefit: Neither the Pleasanton Weekly nor the Tri-Valley Community Foundation will take any fees or expenses for administering the fund. One hundred percent of donations go to the intended grantees.

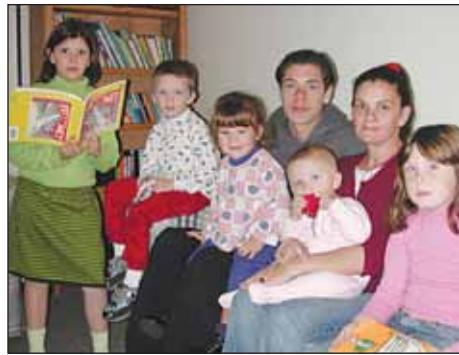
We appreciate your support of the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund and these worthy nonprofits.



Valley Humane Society



Axis Community Health



Tri-Valley Haven



Open Heart Kitchen

# Holiday Fund Donors

**At the launch of the 2007 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund, 108 donors have contributed \$17,230 to the fund. With the 100% match, a total of \$34,460 has been raised for the eight 2007 beneficiaries.**

## Individuals

|                                    |       |         |
|------------------------------------|-------|---------|
| 13 Anonymous                       | ..... | \$1,720 |
| Verla R. Becker                    | ..... | 35      |
| Chris & Glenda Beratlis            | ..... | 500     |
| The Bielby Family                  | ..... | 200     |
| Jan & Jeb Bing                     | ..... | 200     |
| Bert & Dee Brook                   | ..... | 200     |
| Mike & Diana Champlin              | ..... | 500     |
| Herbert & Stella Chang             | ..... | **      |
| Pauline Coe                        | ..... | **      |
| Patrick & Wendy Costanzo           | ..... | 200     |
| The Craig Family                   | ..... | 200     |
| Susan Davis                        | ..... | 200     |
| Alice Desrosiers                   | ..... | 100     |
| Greg & Sue Evans                   | ..... | **      |
| Richard & Gloria Fredette          | ..... | **      |
| Goble Family                       | ..... | 100     |
| RJ & Marsha Grimes                 | ..... | **      |
| The John Gualandri Family          | ..... | **      |
| Carol Guarnaccia                   | ..... | 50      |
| Bing & Laura Hadley                | ..... | **      |
| Bernice Hansen                     | ..... | 2,000   |
| Janice Hermann                     | ..... | 50      |
| Charles & Kay Huff                 | ..... | **      |
| Bill & Cathy James                 | ..... | **      |
| Rudy & Marge Johnson               | ..... | 100     |
| Mr. & Mrs. Steven Jones            | ..... | 100     |
| Jean Jones                         | ..... | 100     |
| Dorothy Kilpatrick                 | ..... | 50      |
| Betty Kirvan                       | ..... | 100     |
| Bob & Pat Lane                     | ..... | **      |
| Gary & Mary Lazarotti              | ..... | **      |
| John Loll & Jane Bielke-Loll       | ..... | **      |
| John & Lisa Loundagin              | ..... | 75      |
| Violet MacDonald-Masini            | ..... | 50      |
| Srikant, Christina & Ashley Mantha | ..... | 25      |
| Jim & Deborah McKeehan             | ..... | 1,000   |
| Greg & Janet O'Connor              | ..... | **      |
| O'Farrell Family                   | ..... | **      |
| John O'Neill                       | ..... | **      |
| Norman & Joyce Pacheco             | ..... | **      |
| Dorene Paradiso-Carroll            | ..... | **      |
| Jerry & Josine Pentin              | ..... | 100     |
| Bob & Orley Philcox                | ..... | 500     |
| John & Roxanne Plotts              | ..... | 50      |
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| Pat & Sue Spangler                 | ..... | 100     |
| Beverly Struthers                  | ..... | **      |
| Harold Swanson                     | ..... | **      |
| Dan & Beth Thiel                   | ..... | **      |
| Mark & Kathy Tucker                | ..... | **      |

*The asterisk designates that the donor did not want to publish the amount of the gift.*

its services. The organization also rescues, treats and funds a home for abandoned or injured animals. It does not euthanize unless health problems dictate.

"We seek to provide our community with educational outreach and collaborative programs that enrich the bond between people and companion animals and eliminate unnecessary euthanasias," said Wendy McNelley, program director.

David Rice said that "what's important about giving to the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund is that, in partnership with the Tri-Valley Community Foundation, we can identify these programs and activities

that need our help and serve our entire community."

"We know what the needs are locally because of our expertise in covering these nonprofits in the Weekly's news columns and through the foundation's programs to help serve their financial needs," he explained.

"We can put money to work very quickly where as it might take quite a long time for these organizations to partner up with donors themselves," he added. "So this is a much more effective and direct way to get money to work in the community by giving to the Holiday Fund."



# How to Give

## Your gift helps seniors, children and others in need

Contributions to the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund will be increased by the Tri-Valley Community Foundation. For every \$1 contributed, \$2 total will be donated to these local organizations. All contributions will go directly to programs that benefit Pleasanton and Tri-Valley residents. Contributions will be distributed by the Tri-Valley Community Foundation to the eight agencies listed below. No administrative costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

This year, due to the tremendous need of all nonprofits, donations will be shared equally among the eight recipient agencies.

For more information call us at 600-0840 or e-mail editor@pleasantonweekly.com.

### The following agencies will be supported by the Holiday Fund:

• **Axis Community Health:** Provides medical, mental health, addiction counseling and health education services to more than 20,000 patients and clients each year, regardless of their ability to pay. An estimated 70 percent have no medical insurance or are underinsured, including some that have recently lost their jobs and health benefits. Call 201-6017 or visit [www.axishealth.org](http://www.axishealth.org).

• **Emergency Room Expansion at ValleyCare Medical Center:** ValleyCare, a nonprofit health system, needs funds to expand its emergency room, built in 1991 to accommodate 13,000 patients a year and now handles more than 26,000. It will cost \$6.7 million to replace the facility and upgrade equipment, and the Holiday Fund will help get that started. For more information, contact Ken Mercer at 373-4566.

• **Hope Hospice:** Hospice care is unique because it works to not only meet the needs of those at the end of life but also supports the emotional and spiritual needs of the family as well. Hope Hospice care is provided regardless of the ability to pay and relies on contributions such as those raised by the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund. Visit [www.hopehospice.com](http://www.hopehospice.com).

• **Open Heart Kitchen:** As the only nonprofit free soup kitchen in the Tri-Valley area, this service provides nutritious meals for low-income people in the Pleasanton-Livermore area at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasanton and Asbury United Methodist Church in Livermore. Visit [www.openheartkitchen.org](http://www.openheartkitchen.org) or call 580-1616.

• **Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation:** The PPIE is a community-based organization whose mission is to enhance learning experiences for Pleasanton students through a partnership of business, education and the community. Its foundation offers education grants which will now benefit by Holiday Fund contributions. For information, call Debi Covello at 846-5620.

• **Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley:** This independent, nonprofit organization offers a variety of services at no cost to seniors or to their families. Programs include health maintenance, nutrition, fitness, disease prevention, partners-in-safety, in-home counseling, friendly visiting programs and nurses on staff who regularly visit clients. Call 931-5379.

• **Tri-Valley Haven:** Runs a domestic violence shelter as well as a homeless shelter for families and a rape crisis center. Its mission is to aid those who have experienced abuse and offers counseling, a legal clinic and other practical advice. Call 449-5845; 24-hour hotline: 800-884-8119 or visit [www.trivalleyhaven.org](http://www.trivalleyhaven.org).

• **Valley Humane Society:** This nonprofit group is all volunteers, with the mission to educate on responsible pet ownership. It assists in rescuing and placing abandoned or injured animals and operates an adoption center on Nevada Street in Pleasanton. It does not euthanize unless health problems dictate. Call 426-8656.

**Name of Donor** \_\_\_\_\_

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The Tri-Valley Community Foundation is located at 5674 Stoneridge Dr., Ste. 112, Pleasanton, CA 94588. More information about the Foundation can be obtained by contacting the organization at the above address, by calling its President David Rice at (925) 734-9965 or through its Web site: [www.tvcfund.org](http://www.tvcfund.org). The Pleasanton Weekly will make every effort to publish donor names for donations received before Dec. 31, 2007, unless the donor checks the anonymous box. All donations will be acknowledged by mail.

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# Opinion

## Editorial

### Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund

Today our cover story marks the launch of our 2007 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund campaign, a community-wide fundraising effort to provide needed financial resources to the vital nonprofits serving Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley. These organizations serve the homeless, the hungry and disadvantaged, those with little or no health care coverage, emergency medical treatment facilities, the educational and arts needs of our city and even our furry friends in the animal kingdom who mean so much to so many of us, especially to seniors and the disabled.

The Holiday Fund provides an opportunity to contribute to a select group of nonprofit organizations to help alleviate the needs and provide cultural and health benefits that exist in Pleasanton, despite our community's prosperity.

The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund drive benefits not only from the generous contributions of you, our valued readers, but also matching funds from the Tri-Valley Community Foundation and its generous donors. This enables us to double your contributions and allow your gift to have twice the impact. There are three good reasons to contribute to the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund:

1. 100 percent of your gift will go to nonprofits serving people in our community.
2. Neither the Pleasanton Weekly nor the Tri-Valley Community Foundation will take any fees or expenses for administering the fund. All donations will go to the intended recipients.
3. Because of matching donations, your gift will be doubled up to this year's goal of \$150,000 and thus be twice as effective.

We thank all those who have generously contributed to the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund in the past and hope you will make this fund and the organizations it supports part of your holiday giving in the coming weeks.

## Letters

### Retraction needed for Hosterman hawk issue

Dear Editor,

You owe Commissioner Blank and every member of the Planning Commission an apology. Your opinion article ("Commissioner blasts Weekly for reports," Editorial, Oct. 26, page 17) states "What appears to have triggered Phil Blank's outburst is a story we published last Friday (and also online) about Mayor Jennifer Hosterman's red-tail hawk Ariel."

I find your choice of words above highly inflammatory. Characterizing his letter as an "outburst," which was "triggered" by a previous article. Well, it is not just apparent, it is obvious to anyone who read the Oct. 19 article that your accusations against the Planning Commission required some response.

The Oct. 19 article "The Mayor and her hawk: A saga" which states "Hosterman, whose request to keep the bird in the backyard of her home in Vintage Hills has repeatedly been continued by the Planning Commission," clearly implies the agenda item was continued by an action of the Planning Commission when in fact this was and is not correct.

Later in the very same article you flatly stated "Her requests for a special permit will be heard again next month, unless it's tabled again by a commissioner who wants to keep the mayor on hold." There is absolutely no ambiguity in your statement: you specifically indicate the Planning Commission tabled this item. At no time has any planning commissioner asked for the mayor's hawk issue to be tabled or continued. Technically or otherwise, Commissioner Blank is correct about your misstatement of the events, and you owe him not just the requested retraction but an apology as well.

John Carroll  
Pleasanton

### Crafty developer leaves town with profits

Dear Editor,

As though lifted from Donald Trump's play book, another crafty developer taught another trusting Old Town Pleasanton neighborhood a thing or two about "The Art of the Deal." This one went like this: The developer wanted to build four tandem parked houses and a triplex on his newly acquired lot located

(continued on page 15)

## Opinion

### Letters

(continued from page 14)

on the corner of Peters and St. John, one block from Main Street, but there were public on-street parking spaces and a big beautiful black walnut tree in the way.

Not one neighborhood resident or nearby business liked the idea and said so with voice, letters and in a petition, but were ignored. Instead, the city tells the developer, "give us \$28,000 for the tree. We'll call it 'in-Lieu Parking Fee' and apply it as full payment for the five or six existing public on-street parking spaces your project will eliminate." Deal! The investor then sells the property to another developer and high tails it out of Old Town with around \$650,000 in profits, and without even saying "so long suckers" to the neighborhood.

And the new developer? I understand he cut the tree down and sold the expensive wood from the beautiful black walnut to a furniture manufacturer for more than the \$28,000 the first developer gave the city for the tree and six public parking places in the first place. Clever! But the way to build a Community of Character? You decide, then tell the city.

*Robert W. Byrd  
Pleasanton*

### Put money toward cemetery

Dear Editor,

Have we all gone crazy?

We just spent over \$1 million on renovating Kottinger Park and it was fine before.

Now we want to spend \$2 million to quiet the trains? That's the craziest thing I've ever heard of!

I've been in downtown Pleasanton most of my life. I lived on First Street for 15 years while growing up. The train was a block from my

house. Later my daughter lived and raised two babies on St. Mary Street only two houses from the tracks. I still live within sounding distance of the train. We've all got used to the noise of the train.

Whoever is complaining about the train knew the tracks were there and should have bought somewhere else.

In my opinion, \$2 million would be better spent at the newly purchased cemetery. It makes me sick when I go out there to visit my late husband and son-in-law. Money was spent on cement slabs with nice benches. Who wants to sit out there and look at dead, yellow grass?

I have been assured that water and new grass will be planted in the fall. Please make sure that happens. So many of us have dear ones out there, please let us be proud of our cemetery.

While he was alive, anytime anyone asked my husband Joe how he was doing he would reply "I'm on this side of the grass, not the other." Please let's put the grass on our late one's graves—they deserve it.

*Helen Hatfield  
Pleasanton*

### Sign Oak Grove referendum, initiative

Dear Editor,

The Planning Commission disapproved the Oak Grove project and deemed the Environmental Impact Report to be inadequate. Then in a split vote the City Council ignored the normal development approval protocol and approved the project. The initiative simply allows the citizens to decide what is right for Pleasanton in an open and democratic process via the ballot. Even this newspaper in an editorial dated Feb. 2, 2007 stated: "Spirit of open meetings fades with Oak Grove."

A lot of the so-called compromise in this project was worked out behind closed doors. Our mayor and Matt

Sullivan say the project is a result of a collaborative process. If so, why are these elected officials actively opposed to allowing the citizens of Pleasanton to get informed and make their own choices at the polls?

Please sign the initiative and referendum or at least please do not harass those who are trying to allow our democracy to work as is the right of all Americans.

*Lou Astbury  
Pleasanton*

### Thanks for article on blood drive for 5-year-old

Dear Editor,

A late thank you to you for including the need for donors for the blood drive for Sarah Banholzer ("Blood needed for 2 different causes," News, Oct. 26, page 9). I was happy just to have a small mention in there, so I was pleasantly surprised to see such a big article on it. Thank you! It definitely helped as there were many folks that dropped in due to seeing the article, and so we had 50 people turn out with 34 units of blood taken.

*Holly Sanders  
Pleasanton*

### Home Depot plan should come after holidays

Dear Editor,

What part of responsibility, compassion, self-discipline, honesty, respect and integrity can be applied to arranging a meeting in December 2007 to approve a Home Depot, before Christmas? Setting off a possible referendum process, at this time, likely will be recognized and will demonstrate a lack of all the character traits associated with what Pleasanton represents.

Considering the respect I have for the mayor and information presented by the Pleasanton Weekly,

(continued on page 16)

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## Opinion

### Letters

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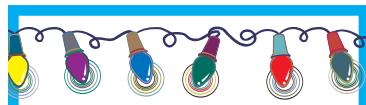
I firmly believe, with issues presently being covered, foundations and fundraisers starting soon, Home Depot approval/non approval can wait until after the New Year. We can lift up our hearts for the holidays for a more peaceful time to be with family, friends and sharing with others.

I understand how difficult the city's responsibilities are. Please get with staff, developers. We know this is not over. Politics has been everywhere. Please don't salt the wound further.

Peter Miller  
Pleasanton

### Weekly doesn't get it

The Pleasanton Weekly isn't getting it. So despite my personal desire to spend my time on more pressing city issues, it appears one more discussion regarding the Weekly's reckless coverage of the Planning Commission is in order.

  
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The Weekly continues to mischaracterize and simplify this important matter. The issue is not "Did (the Weekly) inadvertently use the incorrect preposition?" ("Words can be a weapon to destroy or tool to build," Talking Points, Nov. 2, page 19)

The larger, more potent problem is the Weekly's penchant for misreporting commission facts and then deliberately extrapolating those "facts" to invent political motivations by the commission.

To wit:

"Her requests for a special permit will be heard again next month, unless it's tabled again by a commissioner who wants to keep the mayor on hold." ("The mayor and her hawk: a saga," News, Oct. 19, page 5)

"Our curiosity is now raised over just what kind of politics Mayor Hosterman will face if the Planning Commission ever does get around to considering her petition." ("Commissioner blasts Weekly for reports," Editorial, Oct. 26, page 17)

The Planning Commission's value to the city lies in its being able to effectively work through land use issues in an apolitical setting. It is highly inappropriate and potentially damaging to the commission's integrity for the Weekly to repeatedly attach political implications to it, especially by way of the misuse of erroneous information.

It is for this breach of journalistic duty that the Weekly owes an apology not just to the Planning

Commission but to the community the commission serves.

*Jennifer Pearce  
(Planning Commissioner)*

### Be informed, don't sign referendum

Dear Editor,

Be informed; do not sign the Oak Grove referendum or the hillside ordinance.

I support the Oak Grove ordinance adopted by the Pleasanton City Council on Nov. 6. My comments are expressed as an individual citizen and businessman in Pleasanton. I am a past member of the Pleasanton Trails Ad Hoc Committee and a current alternate on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

I had the opportunity to hike the Oak Grove trails with interested citizens, commissioners, and city leaders and I feel that every detail was exchanged between all of the groups to come up with the ordinance that supports the residents of Pleasanton. The public will be getting 496 acres of open space that will have trails that tie into the general plan and the development will be limited to only 51 homes (originally 98 homes). Oak Grove Park is twice the size of Augustin Bernal and will be open to the public.

There is a small group of residents who are trying to reverse the council's decision by collecting signatures from people that may not have spent the time doing the

research as many of the supporters of the Oak Grove ordinance have done over the past 10 years. If this referendum succeeds, it will force our city to return the 496 acres and the park will have an uncertain fate. Please review the attached link [www.keepourpark.org](http://www.keepourpark.org) for more information and to see some of the supporters that have endorsed the city council's decision.

*Herb Ritter, Pleasanton*

### Parade announcer comment regrettable

Dear Editor,

I would like to respond to the letter of Nov. 2, "Amador band, col- orguard disrespected," Letters, Nov. 2, page 20).

To all of those associated with the Amador High School Band program: the Foothill High School Marching Band, its directors, musicians and band parents were honored to have the Amador Marching Dons as part of our annual band review. It is regrettable that the intended humorous comments of a new parade announcer went beyond the point of proper commentary. I hope that any of you who were present will recall that immediately after the Marching Dons finished performing, the veteran announcer took the microphone to announce to the crowd that we were honored to have the Dons participating, that their band program now included more musicians than Foothill, and that since the two High School Bands are in different band

associations, they actually never compete and there is no rivalry. The great Amador Marching Dons were thanked once again, followed by cheers and applause from the audience. We assure you that we will be more careful with our comments in the future. Thank you again to the Dons for being a part of this annual Pleasanton community event.

*Les Duman*

*Announcer for the Foothill High School Band Review*

### Show Fr. Greene some compassion, forgiveness

Dear Editor,

You can please some of the people some of the time, but not all of the people all of the time.

I support wholeheartedly Fr. Dan Danielson and Bishop Allen Vigneron in their decision to stand behind Padraig Greene's appointment as pastor to the Catholic Community of Pleasanton.

I don't think that there is a single person on this earth who can honestly say that they have not done something for which they are ashamed; heartily ashamed. By the very nature of being human, we are all flawed, we are all sinners. Yet we expect compassion, understanding and forgiveness for our flaws and sins.

Let us show this same compassion, understanding and forgiveness to Fr. Greene.

Stop the hysteria now and let this community heal.

*Brenda Rose, Pleasanton*

## Hometown Holiday Celebration

# Remembering Days Gone By

Saturday, December 1, 2007 • 5:30-7:30 PM

Main Street, Pleasanton



**Bring the whole family and be part of a hometown tradition...**

### 5:30 PM - Parade

Marching Bands, Community Organizations, Scout Troops, Athletic Groups and Floats of all kinds

### 6:30 PM - Tree Lighting Ceremony

Lighting of the newly-designed and decorated tree by Mayor Jennifer Hosterman  
(Lawn area at the Museum on Main under the arch at Division Street)

Visit from a very special guest, Santa Claus

Sing-a-long around the Holiday Tree



### New This Year! Toys for Tots Drive

U.S. Marines, Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters and Firefighters Local 1974 will collect toys along the parade route, at the four stages, the parade formation area and at Division Street.



[www.hometownholiday.com](http://www.hometownholiday.com)

ELVES BY GLORIA MATSUMOTO

# Talking Points

by Gina Channell-Allen



## There are (at least) two sides to every story

*Note: Posts are being edited by the Pleasanton Weekly Online staff to remove innuendos, hearsay or specific accusatory information unsupported by facts.*

Pleasanton Weekly Editor Jeb Bing posted last Sunday morning on a Town Square forum concerning a priest in a local church. The purpose of Town Square is to allow community members an opportunity to talk with each other and with us. The Weekly staff tries to provide an arena where visitors have the freedom to voice their opinions and ask tough questions and are safe from abuse, degradation and the perpetuation of rumors.

To this end, the Pleasanton Weekly will remove known errors of fact. Unsubstantiated claims that are potentially harmful or destructive from an ethical standpoint, such as accusations of alcoholism, drug abuse, and the like, will also be removed.

However, we extend contribu-

tors a lot of latitude to state their opinions. The basis for any opinion or argument is the source of the information from which the statement is formed. It is up to the reader to assess whether or not the opinion is valid based on the original source and their own research. We encourage people on both sides of an issue to present their case and let visitors decide on the merits of the presentation. Unless the discussion turns destructive, we will allow such an open line of communication.

Take for example a recent forum in which police procedure was questioned. Some posts were sarcastic and condescending, but we allowed them because the opinions expressed and the questions asked were legitimate. An official from the police department eventually responded and provided information which eliminated the need for speculation on the part of posters.

While it can be assumed the

department was not overly happy that law enforcement practices and procedures were being questioned in an open forum, representatives took advantage of the situation to educate the public and clear up any misconceptions. The visitors were very appreciative of the time this police officer took to address their questions.

Let's face it, we all know this type of conversation and these types of questions are asked everyday, be it on the sidelines at the kids' soccer game or over a cup of coffee at Tully's. At least with forums such as Town Square, both sides get an opportunity to present their case.

*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.*

## Guest Opinion

### Sign Oak Grove petition, give Pleasanton a voice

by Cindy McGovern

A Pleasanton grassroots organization is seeking the help of Pleasanton voters. Signatures are needed to place the "Save Pleasanton's Hills and Housing Cap Initiative" and the referendum overturning the approval of the Oak Grove housing project on a 2008 voter ballot. Please join me and sign these petitions.

Protecting the southeast hills ridgeland is clearly important to Pleasanton residents. Pleasanton's 1996 General Plan, the official city planning document, describes this area as follows. "The southeast hills provide a major visual backdrop for south Pleasanton as well as the entire City." This plan also states, "Preserve scenic hillside and ridge views of the Pleasanton, Main and southeast hills ridges."

It's time to honor the General Plan and preserve and protect the natural resources of the southeast hills including blue oak woodlands, plant and wildlife habitats, heritage trees, watershed areas and the scenic resources that enhance the visual beauty of our entire community. The General Plan actually shows us the way, "Develop a ridgeline preservation ordinance and scenic hillside design guidelines to improve safety and reduce the potential negative

visual impacts of development in hilly areas." Eleven years have passed since this plan's adoption and no ordinance is in place.

If this ridgeline preservation ordinance had been developed and adopted, the Oak Grove development would not have been approved since it has ridgeline streets and driveways, houses of up to 12,500 square feet (plus an additional 800-square-foot garage) within 100 vertical feet of the ridgeline, and grading on slopes of 2 percent or greater in these picturesque southeast hills. In addition, another housing development is being proposed in the southeast hills. Without an adopted ridgeline preservation ordinance similar housing developments could be built in these hills. Therefore, to protect all southeast hills ridgelands, we must referendum the Oak Grove housing project and pass the Save Pleasanton's Hills & Housing Cap Initiative establishing the ridgeline preservation ordinance.

Language in the Save Pleasanton's Hills & Housing Cap Initiative states,



Cindy McGovern

"Ridgelines and hillsides shall be protected. Housing units and structures shall not be placed on slopes of 25 percent or greater, or within 100 vertical feet of a ridgeline. No grading to construct residential or commercial structures shall occur on hillside slopes 25 percent or greater, or within 100 feet of a ridgeline."

I have many concerns with the approved Oak Grove project: the loss of blue oak woodlands, the loss of the Callippe butterfly habitat, the lack of a 5 minute fire response time with only one street for ingress and egress for residents, the proximity to two earthquake faults, the enormous up to three story houses with proportionately vast consumption of energy and water resources, etc.

Signing both the initiative and referendum petitions gives Pleasanton voters a chance to discuss the issues, become informed and vote on the future of development in our southeast hills. Please give us all the opportunity by signing the petitions. The community deserves the dialogue.

*Cindy McGovern, who with her husband, Ed, has lived in Pleasanton for 34 years, was a member of the Pleasanton school board for 10 years before being elected to the City Council in 2004. She currently serves as vice mayor.*

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**December 2 • 7 pm • \$20, \$25, \$35**

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*Bay Area Dance*

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## JON NAKAMATSU

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# Dining Out

## American

### Vic's All Star Kitchen

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

### Bridges

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

### Pleasanton Hotel Restaurant

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

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

### Zorn's Restaurant

3015 Hopyard Road, 462-0994. Located in the Hopyard Village Shopping Center, Zorn's serves breakfast all day. Open seven days a week from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. with breakfast and lunch specials. Dine in or take out. Catering also available.

## 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

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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.staceysatwaterford.com](http://www.staceysatwaterford.com).

### 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 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.

### La Vite Ristorante

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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.

## Fusion

### Oasis Grille

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

## Greek

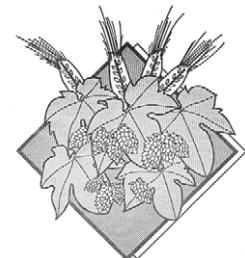
### Simply Greek

4220-C Rosewood Drive, 463-8801. From the neighborhoods of Greece to you. Menu features gyros, souvlaki and more. Located in the Rose Pavilion Shopping Center, they're open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mon. through Thurs., 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fri. and Sat. Catering services available. Visit [www.simply-greek.com](http://www.simply-greek.com).

## Italian

### Fontina Ristorante

349 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-9299. This popular downtown restaurant gets rave reviews from both locals and visitors. Fontina offers a changing, seasonal menu and daily specials-- including homemade soups, pastas,



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## Dining Out

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, ppinach 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

### 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,

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| Full Slab of Ribs & Whole Chicken .....   | \$32.99 |
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**Sides**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Small Side Salad, French Fries, Roasted Corn Salad, Potato Salad, Creamy Cole Slaw, Santa Maria Style Beans, Chicken Tortilla Soup, Mashed Potatoes |  |
|---|--|

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## REAL ESTATE ADVISOR

*Diana Korpi*



## The Sales Price

After your search for a house

and all the negotiations are over, you arrive at the bottom line—the sales price. It is not unusual for there to be disagreements between the buyer and the seller about what is included in the sales price. Careful drafting of the paperwork can help you avoid future disputes.

The following definitions may help. Real property consists of movable possessions, such as furniture and clothing. A fixture is defined as an item of personal property that has become part of the real property by virtue of becoming permanently attached, such as a new sink, a spa, or a chandelier.

The principal area of dispute about what is included usually concerns fixtures. Most preprinted real estate contracts will provide

space for exclusions.

Whether you are selling or buying, you should make use of this space. Do not assume curtains, satellite discs, antennas or fire place equipment convey with the house. You should also make it very clear what you don't want left on the property. If you are specific about every item that may be questionable, you will greatly reduce the chances of a dispute after the closing.

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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## Pleasanton Real Estate News



by  
Gerarda  
Stocking

### THE LIFTING LANGUAGE OF TITLE TROUBLES

Have you ever noticed the aristocratic-sounding way attorneys speak of the title to a property being questioned? For one, just the fact that a question has been raised through legal channels puts a "cloud" on the title. That means we're no longer 100% positive that the property is truly yours and yours alone.

If there is indeed a cloud—if, for example, your second cousin twice-removed believes he has a right to partial ownership—a legal action is taken to decide who is right...or to "quiet the title," as if it had suddenly developed a case of the screaming meemies.

Now, if this happens to you, you'll be extremely glad if you made sure that the title was recorded in your name as soon as the property became, so far as anyone then knew, yours. And you will be doubly or trebly glad that you hold a policy of title insurance on the property because it will almost certainly be up to your title company to quiet title and make it 100% yours again. They have lawyers who know how to do that, and they pay them accordingly.

Take full, recorded title to any property you purchase or receive as a gift or in any transaction, and always insure your title to make certain you don't have to pay further to prove in the future that you are the owner. For assistance call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at [www.gerardastocking.com](http://www.gerardastocking.com).

Gerarda Stocking is the Owner/Broker of Stocking Realty.

# Calendar

## Auditions

**Auditions for Iron Curtain** Las Positas College will hold auditions for "Iron Curtain," a new musical comedy, from 7 to 10 p.m. Dec. 3-4. There are principal and ensemble roles for singers, actors and dancers. Performance dates are April 3-20 with rehearsals Monday through Thursday nights. Call 424-1166.

## 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.

## Civic Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Classes

**Basic Yoga Class** Every Monday at 6:30 p.m. Beth Fox, certified yoga instructor, will teach a yoga basics class in Lynnewood United Methodist Church's multipurpose room, 4444 Black Ave. The class is \$12, open to the public and is appropriate for all levels of experience. Call 846-0221 or visit [www.lynnewood.org](http://www.lynnewood.org).

## Clubs

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

**Boutique Textile Art** Create home accessories, wearable art or soft sculpture. Learn how to piece, applique and embroider ideas into art from 10 a.m. to noon every Tuesday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Class is free. Bring fabric scraps, a yard of unbleached muslin, sharp scissors and dressmaker pins.

**Daughters of the British Empire** Come for a friendly "cuppa" and a chat with your sister Brits in the local chapter of the Daughters of the British Empire. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month in Pleasanton. Call 875-0828 or 494-1273. Visit [www.dbenca.org](http://www.dbenca.org) or [www.dbesociety.org](http://www.dbesociety.org).

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

**MOPS—Mothers Of Pre Schoolers** If you have a child/children from birth-6 years old, come join us and be refreshed, equipped and encouraged. MOPS meets from 9 to 11 a.m. the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month through May 2008 at 4 Circle E Ranch Place, San Ramon. Enjoy breakfast, crafts and speakers. The cost is \$20 for the remaining semester. Call Silvia, 560-1411.

**NARFE** The Livermore Chapter 0397 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association meets at 12:30 p.m. the second Thursday

## Calendar Spotlight



### Lights in memory

Hope Hospice invites the community to remember loved ones or honor someone special by participating in the Hope Hospice Lights of the Valley 2007. Pleasanton's Tree of Life ceremony will be held at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 28 at Heritage Bank, 300 Main St. Mayor Jennifer Hosterman will be there, along with the Golden Gate Boys Bellringers, Harmony Fusion Chorus and Poet Laureate Martha Meltzer. To donate for a symbolic light or to learn more about this program, visit [www.hopehospice.com](http://www.hopehospice.com).

monthly at Emil Villa's Restaurant at the corner of Pacific and S. Livermore avenues in Livermore. Call 484-0813 or 846-7167.

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

#### Retired Public Employees' Association Christmas Party

The Retired Public Employees' Association, Tri-Valley Chapter 075, is having a Christmas Party at 10:45 a.m. Dec. 6 at Emil Villa's, 3054 Pacific Ave., Livermore. The cost is \$5 per person. There will also be a Christmas ornament exchange (no more than \$10). For more information or to reserve your spot, call Bob at 845-6563 or June at 461-0315.

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

#### Tri-Valley Holistic Moms Network

The group will be discussing Conscious Cleaning Choices from 7 to 9 p.m. Sept. 17 at CrossWinds Church, 6444 Sierra Court, Dublin. Meetings are held on the third

Monday of the month at the same time & location. Dads and children are welcome. See [www.holistic-moms.org](http://www.holistic-moms.org).

#### Tri-Valley Homebrewing Club

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

**Tri-Valley Wood Carvers** Tri-Valley Wood Carvers meet each Tuesday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, wood shop room, from 12 to 4 p.m. The regular business meeting is held the second Saturday of the month, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Call Ken Morgan, 462-6586.

#### Twin Valley Mothers of Twins Meeting

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

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## Calendar

## 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

**Artisan Affaire** The Artisan Affaire and Holiday Boutique will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 2 at Veterans Memorial Hall, 301 Main St. Fabulous Artisans from all over California feature beautiful, exotic gifts for friends and family alike. Spa products, soy candles, pet gifts, jewelry, pottery, scarves, baby gifts, scrap booking, journals, gourmet foods, ethnic arts and more. Visit [www.artisanaffaire.com](http://www.artisanaffaire.com).

**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.

**Monthly CGA Gymkhana** Bring yourself and your horse to the CGA Gymkhana, a timed obstacle racing on horseback, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. the first Saturday of every month at Robertson Park, 3476 Robertson Park Road, Livermore. Family fun for all ages, riding abilities and riding disciplines. Ribbons and prizes are awarded. Everyone is welcome. There is a \$35 entry fee for all events. Email [shasta1987@hotmail.com](mailto:shasta1987@hotmail.com).

**Passport to Adventure** City of Pleasanton naturalist Eric Nicholas presents "Rediscovering the Beauty of Open Spaces in Pleasanton," as a part of the Pleasanton Senior Center's Passport to Adventure program at 10 a.m. Nov. 30 at 5353 Sunol Blvd. The event includes images, live narrative and indigenous reptiles and amphibians in the area. All ages are welcome. Call 931-5365.

## Exhibits

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

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

**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 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.

**Recent Works By Linda Ryan** An exhibition of new works by Livermore abstract figurative artist Linda Ryan

will be on display from Nov. 13 through Dec. 8 at art!space contemporary fine arts & crafts gallery, 133 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore. Ryan's work combines an exploration of energy, motion and the figure. Visit [www.artspace-gallery.com](http://www.artspace-gallery.com).

## Fundraisers

**16th Annual Valley Humane Society Santa & Pet Photo** Begin the holiday with great pictures of your pets, big and small, with Santa from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 1-2 at Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane, Livermore. The event goes on even with light rain. All pets are welcome but must be on a leash or in a carrier. The cost is \$20 for two photos of one pet. Proceeds benefit the Valley Humane Society. Call 426-8656 or visit [www.valleyhumane.org](http://www.valleyhumane.org).

**3rd Annual Holiday Tea and Fashion Show** Enjoy this holiday event from noon to 3 p.m. Dec. 2 at the Museum On Main Street, 603 Main St. All ages are invited to this high tea party and elegant fashion show from downtown Pleasanton shops. Guests are encouraged to dress up in period clothing or hats, but it is not required. Tickets are \$25 for museum members and \$30 for non-members. Call 462-2766 or visit [www.museumonmain.org](http://www.museumonmain.org).

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

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

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

**Spa Open House to Benefit Tri-Valley Haven** The Pleasanton Spa (voted Best Spa by Pleasanton Weekly readers) is having a holiday open house celebration from 3 to 7 p.m. Nov. 27 at 6155 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 150. In conjunction with the event, the spa will make a monetary donation to Livermore's Tri-Valley Haven, which runs domestic violence and homeless shelters. Call 463-1572.

**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).

**Toys 4 Tots Drive** Dinner My Way has started collecting toys for the Toys 4 Tots drive. Anyone can drop off new and unwrapped toys at 1989 Santa Rita Road in Mission Plaza. Call 485-4286.

## 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



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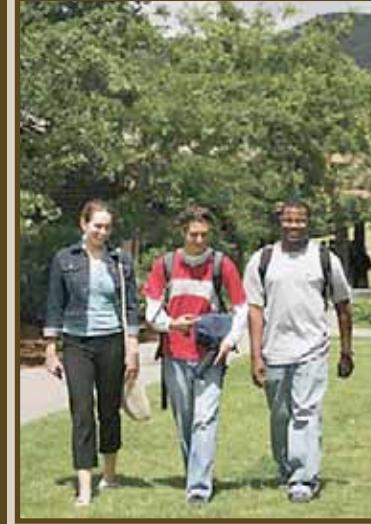
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**11/29 – Dublin**

**11/28 – Pleasanton**

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## Calendar

first 350 attendees will receive a small holiday gift.

### Donlon Elementary School

**Holiday Boutique** Come with your holiday shopping list and visit representatives from various direct sales companies as well as hand crafters at the Donlon Elementary School Holiday Boutique. It will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 1 at the school, 4150 Dorman Ave. Products range from handmade crafts to scrapbooking, beauty supplies to housewares. Raffle tickets and food available for purchase.

**Holiday Art & Craft Sale** An art and craft sale benefiting Building Futures with Women and Children and Interfaith Homeless Network will be held from noon to 7 p.m. Nov. 30 and 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Dec. 1 at Creekside Church, 951 MacArthur Blvd., San Leandro. Handmade items for sale include jewelry, quilts, stained glass, gourds, pottery and wreaths. Call 510-430-0607.

**Holiday Boutique** Artisan Affaire and Holiday Boutique will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 2 at the Veteran's Memorial Hall, 301 Main St. Gifts include spa products, soy candles, pet gifts, jewelry, gourmet foods and more. Partial raffle proceeds will be donated to UCSF Comprehensive Cancer Center. Visit [www.artisanaffaire.com](http://www.artisanaffaire.com).

**Holiday Food Drive** Pleasanton CPA firm JL Consulting is coordinating a holiday food drive benefiting people in need served by the Alameda County Community Food Bank. Donations of nutritious and non-perishable foods can be dropped off at 1021 Serpentine Lane, Ste. 105 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday until Dec. 17. Call 846-1859.

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**Holiday Workshop** The city of Dublin hosts a holiday workshop from 2 to 4 p.m. Dec. 1 at the Dublin Heritage Center, 6600 Donlon Way. It will feature music, crafts and foods for a \$3 admission.

**Holidays in the Vineyards** Garre Winery, 7986 Tesla Road, Livermore, to feature arts and crafts booths with wine and holiday themed gifts from noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 1 and 2. Also on hand will be Toys for Tots Toy Drive, One Warm Coat Drive, Holiday Stew served in sourdough bowls and holiday treats. Free wine tasting and hot apple cider.

**Holidays in the Vineyards** The Annual Livermore Valley Wine Country tradition, Holidays in the Vineyards, celebrates the season from noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 1-2. Thirty-nine wineries present special wines, music, arts and crafts, gifts, prize raffles, and warm holiday experiences for family and friends. Visit [www.livermorewine.com](http://www.livermorewine.com).

**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).

### Review of New Children's Books

Walter Mayes and Valerie Lewis, authors of "Valerie and Walter's Best Books for Children: a Lively, Opinionated Guide," will share the newest and best children's books in an entertaining one hour review at 7 p.m. Dec. 2 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Light refreshments and door prizes included.

## Lectures/ Workshops

### Chemotherapy and Radiation

**Treatment** Join Rishi Sawhney, MD, Medical Oncologist and Michael Moyes, MD, Radiation Oncologist, both of Valley 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).

**Meet the Author** At 7 p.m. Dec. 5 at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin, meet Chuck Acquisto, author of "Wisdom to Grow On," an inspirational collection of letters from actors, attorneys, sports legends and politicians. To celebrate his firstborn son's birthday, Acquisto wrote to people with requests for advice on achieving success in life to pass on to his son.

### Transformation or Destruction—Our Common Challenge

From noon to 4 p.m. Nov. 25, find out how to be a part of the solution at the Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream Symposium presented by World School Massage, 699 Peters Ave. Suite A. A profound inquiry into a bold vision: Environmental sustainability, social Justice, spiritual fulfillment. Cover is \$10. Call 672-4464 or 461-2533, or visit [awakeningthedreamer.org](http://awakeningthedreamer.org).

## Live Music

### Wish Inflicted at Dublin Sports

**Pub** Wish Inflicted and Dan Taylor perform live at the Dublin Sports Pub, 7294 San Ramon Road, Dublin, at 9 p.m. Nov. 30. This free event is open to those ages 21 and over. Visit [www.wishinflicted.net](http://www.wishinflicted.net).

## Miscellaneous

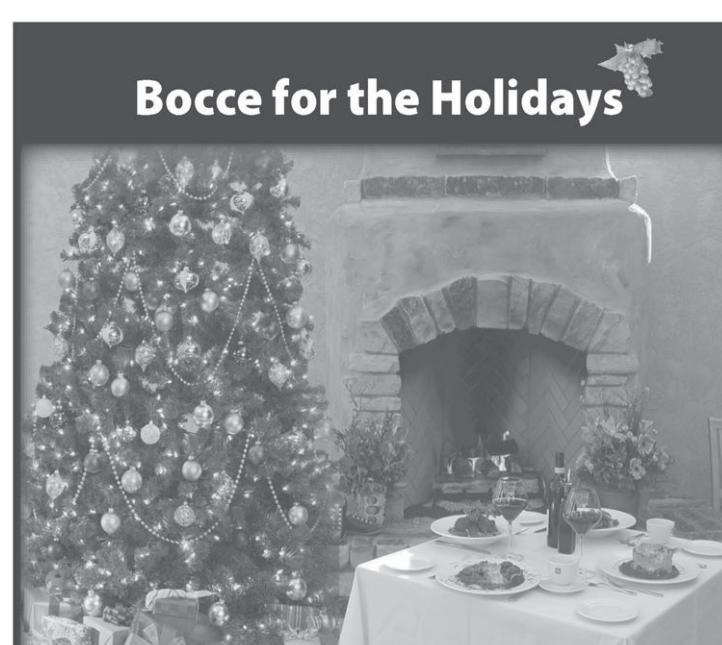
**Free The Cat Campaign** For a limited time, Tri-Valley Animal Rescue will offer no-fee adoptions of all adult cats. Strict adoption criteria will still apply. Adoptions are held at Pleasanton Farmers Market (9:30 to 1 p.m. Saturdays), Dublin Pet Food Express (2 to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays) and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

### Kittens Seek Foster Homes

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

## Seniors

**A Holly-day Affair to Remember** At 6:30 p.m. Dec. 12 at 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., the Dublin Senior Center hosts a Holly-day Affair. Enjoy pastries, dessert and coffee while listening to big band tunes of Manny



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565 University Ave  
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408.395.7650

## Calendar

Gutierrez and his quartet. Prizes will be raffled. RSVP by Dec. 3. Tickets are \$20 for Dublin residents or \$23 for non-residents. Call 556-4511.

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

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

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

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

## Spiritual

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

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

**Worship Service** The Fountain Community Church, 4455 Stoneridge Drive, holds a worship service at

10:30 a.m. every Sunday. It's a place to connect with God and people. Upbeat contemporary worship and challenging messages. Call 600-8182 or visit [www.fountaincc.org](http://www.fountaincc.org).

## Sports

### 14's Fastpitch Travel Team Tryouts

Lady Hustle will be holding tryouts for their travel team Dec. 1 and 9. Visit [www.ladyhustlefastpitch.com](http://www.ladyhustlefastpitch.com) to register. Call coach Teresa Borchard, 785-0846.

### 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.

**Fastpitch Softball Tryouts** Young Guns 18A girl's fastpitch softball team will be holding tryouts for the upcoming 2008 summer travel season. Tryouts will be held at noon Dec. 2 and Dec. 9 at Creekside Middle School, Castro Valley. Call Rocky, 510-886-0243 or Jeff, 510-828-3812.

### 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.

**Pleasanton Ridge Ride** Meet the Cyclepath group at the Foothill Road staging area. These no-drop mountain rides last approximately two hours. Riders should be in good fitness, have a well-adjusted, safe mountain bike (with a light) and general knowledge of bike handling skills. Call 485-3218.

**Sunday Morning Group Ride** Join cyclists of all levels for this friendly, no-drop ride. Routes vary weekly (25-55 miles) and last approximately two hours. We meet at 8:30 a.m. at Cyclepath, 337-B Main St., to determine our route and fill tires for a

9:00 a.m. departure. Riders warm up together and split into smaller groups based on skill level. Call 485-3218.

## Support Groups

### Cancer Support Group

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

### ClutterLess (CL) Self Help Group

Is clutter stressing you out? We are a self help support group for those with difficulty disposing of stuff. Cluttering is a psychological issue, not just an organizing issue. If you are ready to change your life, just come to the meeting from 7 to 8:30 p.m. every Monday at Pleasanton Presbyterian Church Rm. 7, 4300 Mirador Drive. Call 297-9246 or 846-5060 Box 2. Visit [www.clutterless.org](http://www.clutterless.org) or email [clutterlesspleasanton@hotmail.com](mailto:clutterlesspleasanton@hotmail.com). The group is free, however \$2 to \$5 donation appreciated.

### Crohns and Ulcerative Colitis Support Group

This support group meets the third Thursday of every month at the ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Ste. 270. Walk-ins are welcome. Feel free to bring a guest. No meeting in December. Call 462-6764 or 846-4653.

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

### Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group

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

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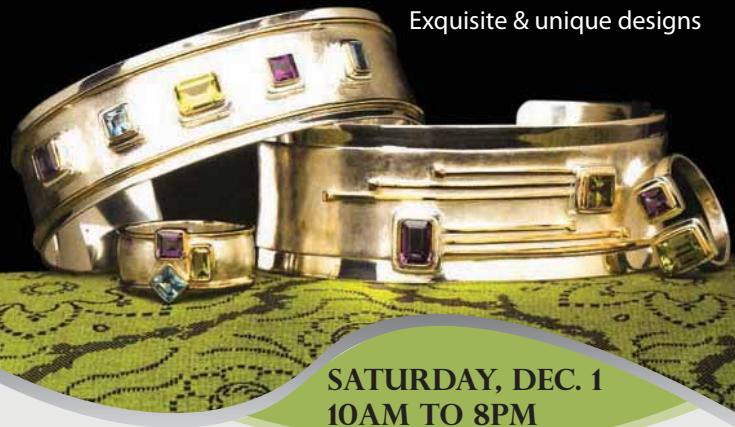
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## Volunteering

**Blankets for Kids** Blankets For Kids, founded by Pleasanton resident Jo Molz, makes and distributes soft fleece blankets to at-risk, abused

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## Calendar

## TV30

**Ask the Doctor** Children's Health is the topic for "Ask the Doctor," TV30's LIVE call-in show at 7 p.m. Nov. 7, 14, 21 and 28 on Channel 30. Guests are Suresh Sachdeva, M.D., Pediatrician and Michael Michlitsch, M.D., Orthopedic Surgeon from San Ramon Regional Medical Center.

**Tri-Valley Sports Final** Back for its third season, Tri-Valley Sports Final with hosts Ian Bartholomew, George "Dr. B" Baljevich, and Dennis Miller. This weekly show covers team and individual high school sports in the Tri-Valley. Fri, Sat., Sun. at 7 p.m. and Sat., Sun., Mon. at 9 a.m., and Fri., Sat. & Sun. at 10 p.m.

I agree with this. Check your kids MySpace accounts. Check their text messaging or AIM too.

[READ MORE/COMMENT](#)

## Town Square Forum

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