

# Trees for troops

Boy Scouts hold annual tree pickup > page 5

Vol. VIII, Number 48 • December 28, 2007

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## Still time to give

Help the Weekly reach the \$150,000 Holiday Fund goal

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# PLEASANTON WEEKLY

## I resolve to...

Locals divulge their goals for the New Year

> section 2



# 2007 In Review

Page 10

Relive all the significant events and issues in our A to Z guide





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# Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

## Ring out the old with a brisk walk in Sports Park

Most of us probably don't have a brisk, 10,000-step walk in Sports Park as part of our plans for New Year's Eve, but that's exactly what Pleasanton businessman and long-time community volunteer Ron Sutton wants us to do. Sutton is the chief executive of ACCUSPLIT, Inc. a pedometer and stopwatch manufacturer which has its global headquarters here. He's a frequent traveler and it was on a recent trip to Taiwan where he spoke at that country's First National Walking Day that he "got religion," as he says, over the health benefits of walking.

So Monday he wants all of us to join in, starting at noon, in what he is calling the first World Walk to Wellness Day. It's a come-as-you-are activity with only 2,000 steps, or a 20-minute walk planned. For a small donation of your choice to Sutton's favorite nonprofit—the Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation, he'll give you one of his company's Alliance 3010 mechanical 10,000-step pedometer, capable of accurately measuring your steps totaling 2.15 miles.

After his speech in Taipei, Sutton was a bit taken back by a college student's comment that three of the speakers, including Sutton, didn't look like they're practicing what they preached. Eyeing his own girth and reading up on the rising concerns over obesity among Americans, Sutton came home and vowed to take action. First, he started his own "stepping out" program, where he now hikes every morning from his Pleasanton Hills home down to Valley Boulevard and then over to the open space and marshlands on the Bernal property. On weekends he goes a bit farther, walking to the Callippe Preserve Golf Course and back.

A successful marketer, who earned his MBA from Stanford University, Sutton borrowed a page from HP where he first worked to come up with promotions that could encourage others to join him walking. His company is now seeing \$30 million in annual sales not just because it has quality prod-

ucts, but also because of effective public relations that have given it a worldwide recognition. Sutton also was successful back in the 1990s in handling marketing for the school district's \$30-million general obligation bond measure, called Measure B. Few questioned the need for the bond issue, but it was Sutton who heavily and successfully marketed and promoted the measure that got out the vote.

He hopes to do the same with his First World Walk to Wellness. Sutton still devotes considerable time to helping the school district on financial issues and said he sees too many hefty children who, along with their parents, could stand to lose some weight. His own goal is to lose 25 pounds and he's on his way, promising the Taiwanese student he'll shed at least that when he returned for National Walking Day there next November.

He also knows that New Year's Eve can be a tough time to launch a public walk program, but he says it's also a time when most people make resolutions. When it comes to diet and exercise, almost everyone promises to do better the next year, certainly not worse. But a check of local health clubs shows that while business picks up after New Year's Day, the new and energetic members stop dropping out within a few months, if not weeks. Equipped with your own personal pedometer, Sutton believes many will take up walking for fun. His company even offers a "buddy" system approach so that you can walk alone, if you want, but then confide in your buddy on the ACCUSPLIT Web site just how you're doing. Most do quite well.

I'll be at a family reunion in New York City on New Year's Eve so I can't join the hundreds of you that I hope will walk with Sutton. I already have my pedometer from a business event where Sutton was passing them out, so I'll take mine for a 2,000-step walk in Central Park. Then we can all track our walking progress on Sutton's buddy list to see if we can lose a few pounds, too. Have a Happy New Year. ■

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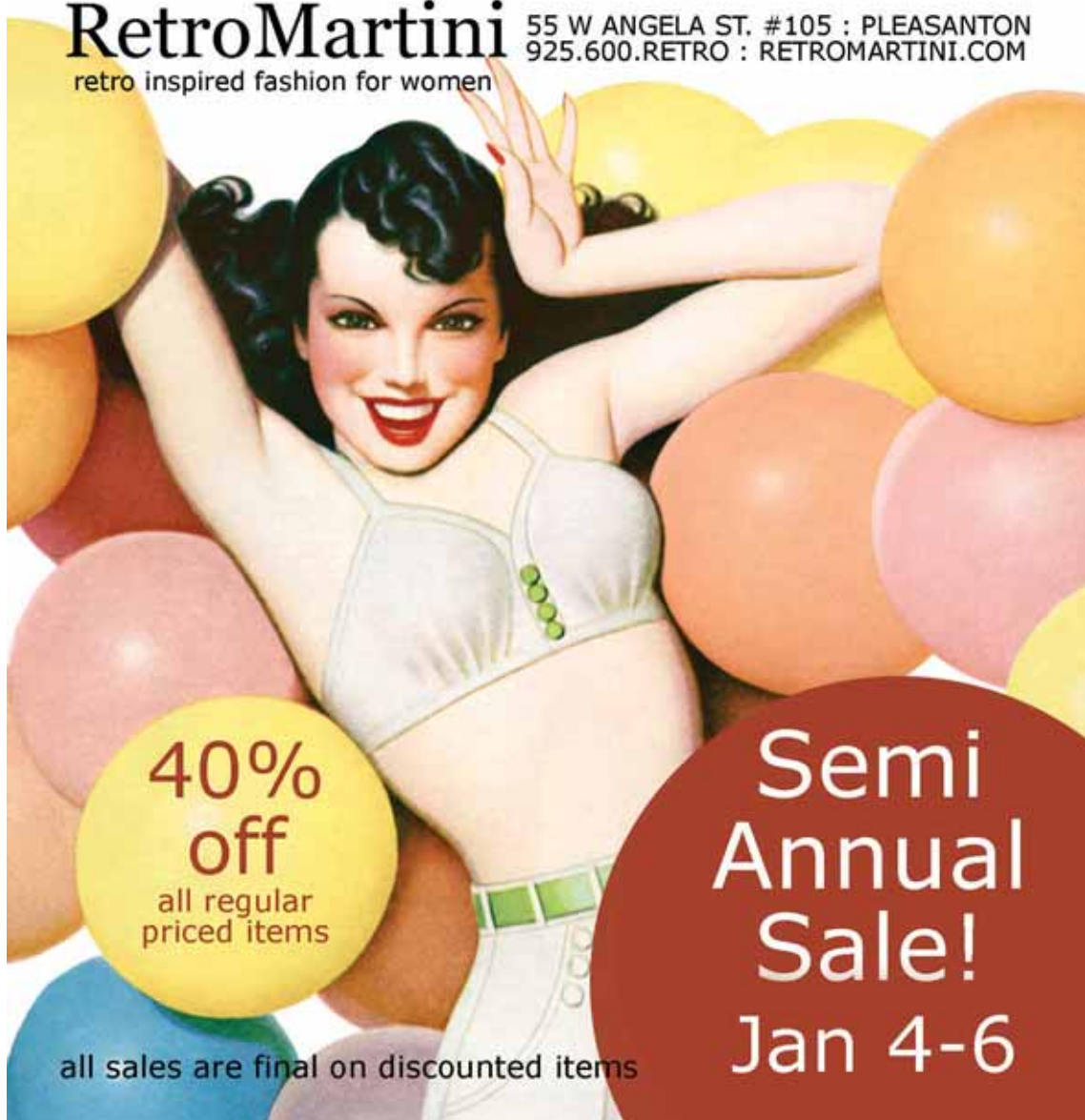
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### About the Cover

The end of 2007 ushers in the start of 2008, which promises to be an action-packed year with the election season in full force. But, what happened this past year in Pleasanton? From our A to Z guide, you'll see that a lot, indeed, happened. Design by Manuel Valenzuela.

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# Streetwise

**Q:** What are you looking for most in 2008?

Asked Downtown



**Mike Rose**  
Garbage Man

I hope something is done about ending the war and bringing the troops home in '08. I hope my health holds up and next year is a better year for everyone.

**Bruce Coffman**

Electrical Engineer

Family health is probably the most important. I try to focus on the bigger picture not the day to day difficulties. We try to teach our kids to not focus on all of the little insignificant things. It's the big picture that really matters, health and family.



**Zora Dolezal**  
Retired

I am looking for better actions between people. I've always wanted people to get along well and be happy. I know this gets more difficult as the world becomes more complicated but we can all help accomplish this by being kinder to each other.

**Elena Voronina**

Purchasing Manager

Of course I'd love the world to have peace. For myself, I'd like a promotion at work, a new house and the car I am dreaming of. More so, prosperity and peace for everyone.

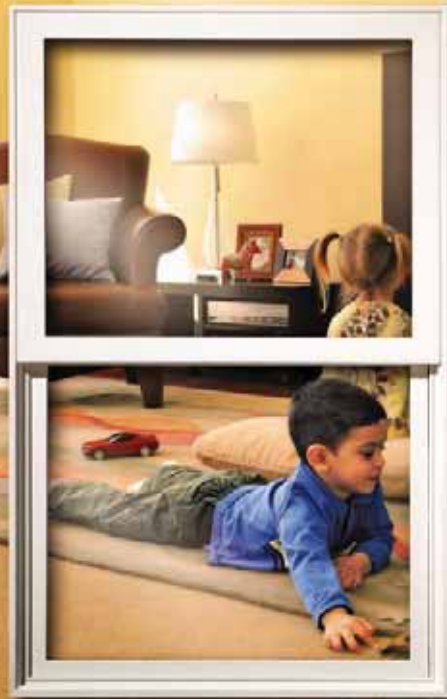


**Linda Reed**  
Sales

Firstly, to bring the troops home and to end the war. Additionally, to find more "green" solutions for our environment. I'd also like to finish up remodeling our house.

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

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# Newsfront

## News Digest

### Volunteers needed at Amador Theater

The City of Pleasanton needs volunteer ushers for the Amador Theater. It is scheduled to reopen in the next few weeks after renovations were made to the lighting system and lobby. Those interested in volunteering should contact Amador Theater House Manager Larry Valenzin at 931-3472 or lvalenzin@ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

### Soli Deo Gloria holds auditions

The spring concert season is fast approaching and Soli Deo Gloria is holding auditions. The program will be accompanied by a professional orchestra and includes the U.S. Premier of Canadian composer Allan Bevan's "Nou Goth Sonne Under Wode." Rehearsals are Monday nights in Alameda beginning Jan. 7. Experienced singers are encouraged to join this 40-voice chorus. Call 650-424-1242 for audition information.

### Non-fiction book club starts up

Kathryn Tournat will lead a new non-fiction book club at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 2 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. "Carved in Sand: When Attention Fails and Memory Fades in Midlife" by Cathryn Jakobson Ramin will be discussed. Refreshments will be served. Call 846-8826.

### School board changes meeting date

The Pleasanton Unified School District school board will meet at 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 7 at the district office board room, 4665 Bernal Ave. The board usually meets the second and fourth Tuesdays during the school year months.

### Garbage service delayed one day

Since New Year's Day falls on a Tuesday, the Tuesday through Friday garbage pick-ups will be delayed by one day for the week of Jan. 1. The transfer station, recycling center and office will be closed Jan. 1. Visit [www.pleasantongarbage.com](http://www.pleasantongarbage.com) or call 846-2042 for more information.

### Corrections

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

## Boy Scouts recycling Christmas trees Jan. 5

*Residents leave their trees on the curb, asked to donate to help scouts*

by Janet Pelletier

For \$5-10, residents can discard their Christmas trees, support Boy Scouts and help the earth all at the same time.

The 16th annual Boy Scout Christmas tree pickup will be held Jan. 5. Boy Scout troops 941 and 943 will spend all day that Saturday and most likely the following day making rounds across Pleasanton to pick up trees for recycling.

"It's so large. Last year, we picked up 4,000 or 5,000 trees," said Troop 943 Scoutmaster Dave Meyer. "A lot of people are buying the artificial trees, but with (everyone being environmentally conscious), even more and more people are

looking to get rid of their trees."

Roughly 75 Scouts, plus troop leaders and parents will be working during the pickup.

Meyer said the troops coordinate with Pleasanton Garbage Service, which will pick up remaining trees following the Scouts' cleanup on the following trash day. The troops rent trucks from a local company that gives them a discounted rate.

The group will only pick up trees in Pleasanton. Residents interested in discarding their trees need to fill out a form that can be printed from either of the troops' Web sites, [www.troop941.com](http://www.troop941.com) or [www.troop943.com](http://www.troop943.com). A donation is requested of \$5 for regular trees and

\$10 for larger trees, flocked trees or for businesses. The donation and the filled out form may be mailed to Boy Scouts of America, P.O. Box 5358, Pleasanton, CA 94566. The Boy Scouts must receive the form by Jan. 3. Residents can also register for pickup online at [ww.troop941.org](http://ww.troop941.org) and donate through PayPal. Online registration must be received by 10 a.m. Jan. 4.

The money that's raised goes straight to the Scouts.

"All of the boys work on a per-hour basis," Meyer said. "It goes into what we call a Scout account and they can use it for summer camp,

(continued on page 8)



Jay Flaichsbarth

### A doggone good time

Mountain Musers Henry (pictured) and Lela Schultz recently showed off their sled dogs to a big group of excited children at the Pleasanton Library. For the story, see page 7.

## Taking wellness in stride

*Inaugural World Walk to Wellness takes place Monday*

As many ready to set pen to paper to mark resolutions for 2008, Mr. Pedometer, also known as ACCUSPLIT, Inc. President and CEO W. Ron Sutton, reminds residents that walking leads the way to well-being.

It is for this reason that he created the World Walk to Wellness, a self-guided stroll around a local park to encourage health and fitness. The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday at the Pleasanton Sports and Community Park, 5800 Parkside Drive at Hopyard Road. All ages are welcome to participate in the 5,000-step walk (2.15 miles) and a 20-minute, 2,000-step walk led by Sutton at noon.

The walk is also sponsored by Walking10000.org, the international governing body of 10,000

Steps-A-Day. The program was developed by Dr. Yoshiro Hatano in Japan in 1965, in hopes that physical movement would lead to good health. The Web site promotes "a lifestyle of activity" instead of the Surgeon General's recommendation of 30 minutes of brisk exercise done once each day.

"At a time when obesity, diabetes and other ailments related to inactivity are rampant in our country, we trust that the concept of 'activity to wellness' will spread like wildfire," Sutton said.

"The World Walk to Wellness is a community event aimed at learning and walking for the

(continued on page 8)

## Community college gains new leaders

*Pleasanton resident named president of Chabot-Las Positas College district board*

by Emily Atwood

Three leaders have recently been named to prominent posts in the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District, and one of them is a Pleasanton resident.

Carlo Vecchiarelli, an 18-year Pleasanton resident, was unanimously elected president of the district's board of trustees. In that post, he'll oversee meetings and represent the district.

Vecchiarelli was elected to the board in 2004 and previously served the district for 40 years as a faculty member; director of admissions; dean of math, computer science and engineering division at Chabot College in Hayward. He received his master's degree in biological sciences at UC Berkeley.

His goals for the school include telecasting board meetings, bolstering veterans programs and to keep with his goal from when he was elected to the board—to make both schools "full service colleges."

There's a lot brewing on the LPC campus with construction and he's looking forward to next year, especially with the sports expansions planned.

"Exciting things are going to happen," he said. "We are building a new swimming pool and we'll have a swimming team. We're really big on sports."



Carlo Vecchiarelli



Dr. DeRionne Pollard



Dr. Celia Barberena

(continued on page 8)

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Kathy Barney  
Owner

#### Tri Valley, CA.

The new health clubs for women in the Tri Valley is Kathy's Healthclubs with two locations, one in Pleasanton and the other in San Ramon.

The business is not brand new but the name and the concepts are. Kathy's Healthclubs are owned by Kathy Barney, a long time Danville resident who actually began her fitness centers in the summer of 2004. We wanted to differentiate ourselves from the other women clubs in our area. Many women were confused and thought that we were another small "circuit type" club and did not realize that we were a large full service club. Our clubs are really the perfect club for women, because they are designed for all women, regardless of their age, weight or fitness level.

I also wanted to be known as the "neighborhood" club for women. I am proud to be a local independent club. I believe that I am able to provide a higher level of customer service as well as programs that are specific to the needs of women in our marketplace. I really enjoy being able to interact personally with our members. I just want to provide this marketplace with the finest women's health club, period.

At Kathy's Healthclub you will find that the club is the "perfect size". The environment is very comfortable and non-intimidating for women. You really get that neighborhood feeling, a place where women can get fit, socialize and make new friends. We are much more than just a place to workout, many of our women find the club to be a type of sanctuary, a place where they can spend some quality "my time"

The most exciting thing for me is seeing our members get results, make new friends and if needed, get support from other women. In our area, there are a lot of women leading very stressful lives. Whether it is due to the high cost of living, our jobs, the kids, divorce, or the fast paced and demanding lifestyle so many women find themselves in, I wanted to provide women a place they could come and leave their stress at the door. Even if it is for only 30 minutes, that can make a huge difference in their day.

The amazing thing is, that no matter what is happening in their lives, chances are we have other women in the club experiencing the very same thing. For many women, our club acts as a big

support group. Most women understand the benefits of exercise, but it is amazing the value support that women provide to each other.

One of my goals is to provide an atmosphere where working out is fun. One of the most popular activities at Kathy's Healthclub are the group exercise classes, and oh my, do we have group exercise classes. We have over 80 classes a week including Pilates, Yoga, Step, Dance, Body Sculpting and a whole lot more. The best part is that these classes are included in the cost of the membership. There are studios all over charging a lot of money to offer their clients yoga or pilates, you even find other health clubs doing the same. We are very proud of our Group Exercise Program and we are pleased that we can offer this as part of our total package. The best part is our outstanding instructors, we truly feel we have the finest instructors in the area.

I also wanted to create an atmosphere where women could bring their daughters or their moms and feel good about working out together. The gym

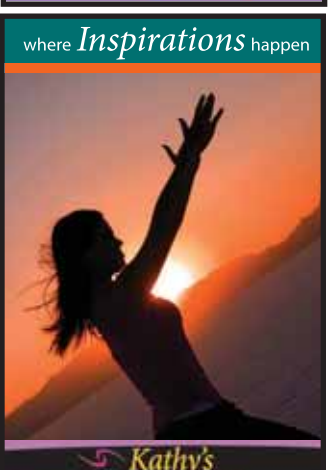
mother daughter bonding . It is not uncommon for us to have three generations of women working out together. I guess if you include the little ones in childcare we could very well have four generations.

Another important reason for being a local independent club is so we can focus on just one marketplace. Our marketplace is changing constantly and as a business catering to women, I need to be able to react to these changes and be able to provide the right environment and right programs that meet the ever changing marketplace. As a chain it is difficult for them to react and respond to individual market changes, they tend to take a one size fits all approach. The women in our market may have needs based on religion, or maybe our marketplace has a higher rate of a specific health issue. The demographics are diverse and we try and meet the needs of all women. Our clubs are really designed for the women in our marketplace I guess you could say, that we try to specialize in the women of the Tri-Valley.

One way our members can get educated and motivated at the same time is through the extensive team of certified personal trainers and certified group exercise instructors. They are trained specifically to deal with fitness as it relates to women. The best way to put it is "its women helping women"

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Kathy Barney

# Sled dogs visit the library

Mountain mushers show their prized dogs, talk about sledding

Mountain Mushers Henry and Lela Schultz spoke to an extremely excited group of children at the library recently.

But the children weren't exactly as excited to see the Schultzes—they were fixated on the two dogs they brought with them.

Pixie, a 10-year-old, Sorrel, an 11-year-old, and 4-year-old Su,

are sled dogs. Pixie is the lead dog, Sorrel is the wheel dog closest to the sled and Su is in training.

Pixie and Sorrel were adopted by the Schultzes two years ago after they retired from the National Parks Department where they pulled sleds for more than seven years in Denali National

Park. Lela Schultz shared children's books and a short story about the original sled dog Balto.

According to the Schultzes, the dogs pull sleds about 2,100 miles each season, allowing park rangers to patrol areas that are only accessible by sleds.

—Jay Flachsbarth

# New British pub opens downtown

Redcoats serves diners in former Odd Fellows hall on St. Mary Street

by Janet Pelletier

You don't have to cross the pond for authentic British fare anymore. A new pub that recently opened downtown offers anything from bangers and mash, fish and chips and shepherd's pie.

Redcoats opened Dec. 15 at 336 St. Mary St. Mari Kennard owns the restaurant along with her ex-husband Paul. Residents may know her if they've ever been to her popular British pub in Danville, called The Crown. Kennard said she describes Redcoats as very similar to The Crown, but with an evolution to the concept of the restaurant.

Kennard, a Brit, left England in 1980 and is a Pleasanton resident.

Asked why she chose the name Redcoats, Kennard said "We had a lot of brainstorming sessions and in the end, that name resonated, both sides of the Atlantic really," she said. "If you see our sign, it's actually a decapitated redcoat so it's a little tongue and cheek because it was, of course, the redcoats who were the enemy of the Americans as the soldiers of the British."

While the restaurant has only been open for two weeks, Kennard said she's been amazed by the response.

*"We feel it meets a lot of needs for Pleasanton residents in the way of ambiance, food offering and the spirit that we have."*

—Mari Kennard, owner

"We were blown away because we just quietly opened our doors and we were very full (the first day we opened) and (the day after) also," she said.

Kennard describes the pub and restaurant's atmosphere as friendly, fun and international.

In addition to restaurant seating and a full bar, Redcoats has a mezzanine level that serves as a lounge at night—something unique in downtown Pleasanton.

Kennard said on evenings, groups can request the lounge for private parties and bottle service will be available.



Redcoats recently opened its doors at 336 St. Mary St.

Janet Pelletier

(continued on page 8)

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

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

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

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

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## BART fares, services to rise in 2008

*Officials claim 33 percent service increase, faster commutes*

Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) recently announced increases in fares and services starting Jan. 1. Riders will pay 10 to 30 cents more per ride.

The shortest BART trips will increase from \$1.40 to \$1.50 and the longest trip, from the Pittsburg/Bay Point station to the Millbrae station, will increase from \$6.30 to \$6.60, according to BART spokesman Linton Johnson.

The 5.4 percent increase in fare is part of a plan approved by the BART board of directors in 2003 in which fares are raised every other year by a percentage based on inflation, according to officials. The increased fare will bring the average price of riding BART to about 21 cents per mile, according to a BART.

According to BART, riders will see a 33 percent service increase, which includes: more trains, more often after 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and all day Sunday; double the trains to most stations on the San Francisco International Airport (SFO)/Millbrae extension; faster commute times and direct service from Millbrae to downtown San Francisco; and early start time for train service to SFO.

Tri-Valley riders will notice the Dublin/Pleasanton line will replace the Richmond line in running directly to Millbrae on weekdays after 7 p.m. and on weekends and holidays.

## Redcoats

(continued from page 7)

When you come upon the restaurant, it's evident that the building has a storied history, as most buildings in downtown do.

The back portion of the restaurant is where a church used to be. That part of the building was constructed in 1888.

"Then, the Independent Order of the Odd Fellows

### New Year's Eve Flash Pass

BART encourages New Year's Eve celebrants to take advantage of the "New Year's Eve Flash Pass," which is good for unlimited rides on BART throughout the holiday evening. To use, riders simply flash the pass to the BART station agent and pass through the swing gate.

The pass is \$6 and provides unlimited rides on BART from 6 p.m. Dec. 31 to 3 a.m. Jan. 1. They are on sale now at Safeway stores in the greater Bay Area; the BART Customer Services Center at the Lake Merritt station; or at MyTransitPlus Stores in the Embarcadero, Civic Center, Montgomery, Powell, Coliseum and Bayfair stations.

### EZ Rider pilot program

BART introduces new EZ Rider card, that replace paper fare cards used to ride. EZ Rider cards are pre-paid and used by "touching" a screen on the fare gate when entering or exiting.

The card loads \$48 in BART credit, but costs \$45. When the balance falls below \$10, the card is automatically reloaded from a credit card account. If lost or stolen, the balance of the card is protected.

There are a limited amount of EZ Rider cards available, as it is still a pilot program. To sign up and to learn more about the new card, visit [www.bart.gov](http://www.bart.gov).

—Emily Atwood

Hall sits at the front of it and that was built in 1907," Kennard said.

Brothers Bob and Jim Byrd performed the work on the building to renovate it for the restaurant

"It's exactly what Pleasanton needs," Kennard said. "We feel it meets a lot of needs for Pleasanton residents in the way of ambiance, food offering and the spirit that we have. I love downtown Pleasanton and I want to be part of it."

For more information about Redcoats, visit [www.redcoatspub.com](http://www.redcoatspub.com). ■

## Community college

(continued from page 5)

In fact, the men's basketball team recently won the Chabot Christmas Classic. With growing teams and facilities, Vecchiarelli hopes that athletes in the Tri-Valley would consider seeing what LPC has to offer. His two children attended Chabot and Las Positas and participated in sports programs there.

Las Positas College's search for a new president came to an end as Dr. DeRionne Pollard was also unanimously voted to the post by the board of trustees. Currently the vice president of educational affairs at the College of Lake County in Grayslake, Ill., she is the first African-American president of LPC in Livermore. She will begin at the end of February.

She has a long list of service at the College of Lake County, including: co-leading the accreditation action team on institutional governance, negotiating the first adjunct and full-time faculty bargaining agreements in the shortest period of time in the college's history, developing and implementing a plan to assess student learning outcomes and providing

oversight of construction and renovation projects. She received her doctorate in educational leadership and policy studies in higher education from Loyola University in Chicago, and her master's and bachelor's degrees in English from Iowa State University.

District Chancellor Dr. Joel Kinnamon, noting her enthusiasm, said she "distinguished herself among her peers through her dedication to students and the mission of community colleges."

It's another first for Chabot College in Hayward, whose new president, Dr. Celia Barberena, is the first female president in its 46 years. She comes to Chabot as the former vice president of student services at Hartnell College in Salinas, Calif.

There she developed several multi-million dollar grants in partnership with area schools to create a "college-going culture" at an early age. She was also responsible for facility development.

She received her doctorate in educational administration and supervision and her master's degree in Spanish literature from Bowling Green State University and her bachelor's degree in economics and sociology from Findlay College in Ohio.

To learn more about these schools, visit [www.laspositascollege.edu](http://www.laspositascollege.edu) or [www.chabotcollege.edu](http://www.chabotcollege.edu). ■

## World Walk to Wellness

(continued from page 5)

whole family," he added. "We will show participants just how easy it is to change their activity level and enhance their wellness for life. We want to positively influence the culture of wellness so that 'everyone is doing it' in Pleasanton and we hope to inspire communities around the United States to make a New Year's commitment to wellness."

Free parking is available on Parkside Drive in the lot closest to Hoypard Road. It is a rain-or-shine event.

—Emily Atwood

## Recycling trees

(continued from page 5)

anything that's Scout-related such as if they need a new tent. For my boys and my son personally, since the very first year he's done this, I have not had to shell out of my pocket for anything—for summer camp, for outings. He just pulls out of a Scout account."

All trees must be either in a driveway or on the curb by 8 a.m. Jan. 5 for pickup. Do not attach any payment to the tree.

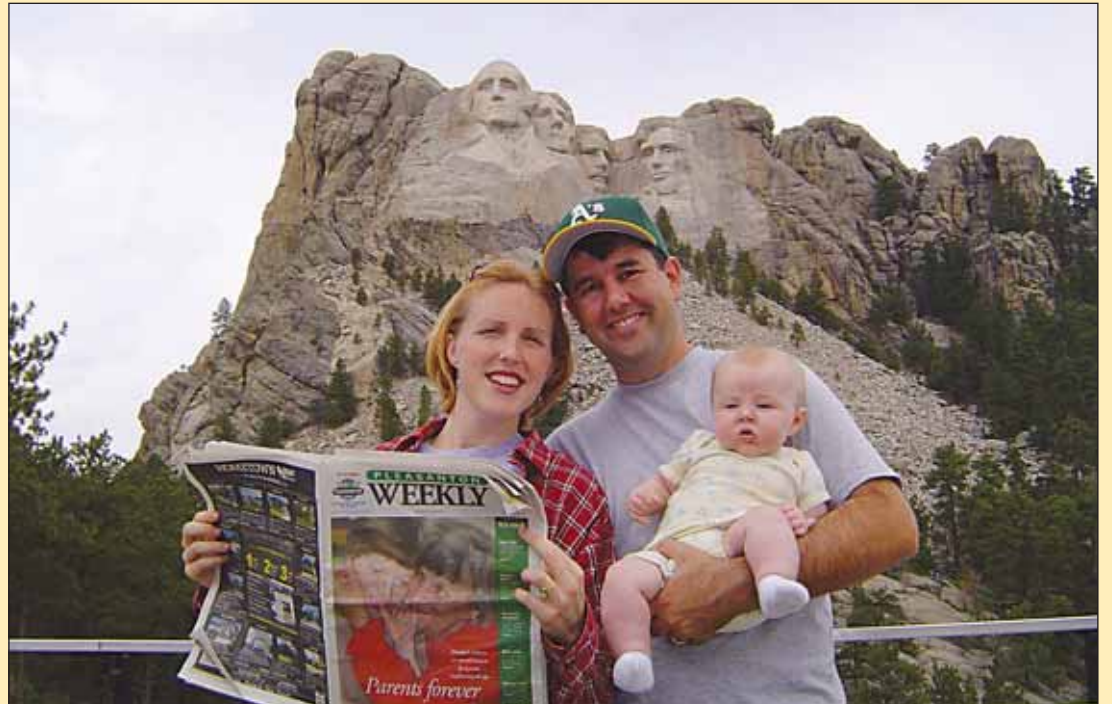
For more information, visit the two Web sites listed or call 417-2525. ■

Take Us Along



Fun and sun with the Weekly

Jim and Annamarie O'Shea use the bright South Carolina sun to illuminate a copy of the Weekly while on Myrtle Beach.



**A presidential Weekly** Pleasanton teachers Jason and Sharolyn Borris read the Weekly as the presidents featured on Mount Rushmore in South Dakota look on. Wonder what they think of our paper? Jason holds the Borris' 3-month-old daughter Camille.



Mixing work with the Weekly

On a recent business trip to Softek in Monterrey, Mexico for Activant Solutions in Livermore, Pleasanton resident Jan Blotz brought along the Weekly to share with her team. The group is inside the Softek building in front of the historic ruins saved from destruction when the new structure was built. Pictured are: from L-R from front: Carolina Rodriguez, Guillermo Carceres, Javier Gonzalez; Alejandro Carral, Jan Blotz, Carlos Cardenas, Erick Rivera; Pedro Tovar, Francisco Ayala and Daniel Montoya.



**Camping with the Weekly** On their annual summer family camping trip, Sarah and Jennifer Ng, Kiley and Allison Stowell and Brittany and Melissa Widas take some time out from roughing it in the wilderness in Pinecrest to read the Weekly.



Don't 'ruin' the Weekly!

Roland and Yoly Bantugan visit the Egyptian Pyramids on a recent trip and brought the Weekly along with them for a taste of home.



Fort Weekly

Keith and Cheryl Caraballo took the Weekly along to historic Fort Sumter on vacation in Charleston, South Carolina.

# 2007

Relive all the significant events and issues in our A to Z guide

Is it us or did 2007 just swoop by? This past 12 months has certainly been a whirlwind, but along the way, there were events that moved us—whether it was development projects, transportation headaches, a couple of pranks, bouts with wild animals, teens in crisis, a priest scandal or a debate on whether to debate the Iraq war—the Pleasanton Weekly was there for it all. What follows is our A to Z review.

## A

### April Fool's—but who was laughing?

An April Fool's Day joke email caused concern amongst city officials. The joke was a mock message purported to be from an official city email address. It referenced a Weekly editorial critical of the City Council's decision to support a neighborhood appeal to the Trinity Lutheran Church building proposal.

### Pleasanton Arch celebrates 75 years

The Pleasanton Arch, which many associate with downtown Pleasanton's mystique, celebrated 75 years in July. The electric sign was installed in 1932 for \$532. It was restored in 2005.

### Award given to Weekly for biz reporting

The Weekly came out a second place winner in July by the California Newspaper Publisher's Association. The paper won for business reporting in 2006 in the annual statewide "Better Newspaper Contest."

## B

### Bypass passes go

The bypass road to Callippe Preserve Golf Course was approved in April, much to the dismay of those living in Sycamore Heights and Bridle Creek, who didn't want to share the brunt of traffic with Happy Valley. The decision came after months of discussion and work by the Happy Valley Blue Ribbon Committee.

## C

### Churches embark on expansions

Churches made efforts to expand or build new facilities, including Trinity Lutheran, St. Elizabeth Seton and Pleasanton Presbyterian. In November, Pleasanton Presbyterian moved from its old facility on Mirador Drive to a temporary facility while awaiting completion of a multi-million-dollar church in Ironwood. Trinity Lutheran didn't fare so well on its proposal due to neighbors of the church who were concerned about traffic and noise. The City Council upheld neighbors' appeal, but later, the city worked with the neighbors to draft a different plan that was considered by them to be more of a compromise. The Catholic Community of Pleasanton embarked on a \$4.8-million activity center at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church in September.

## D

### Deal between county and city for sale of railroad corridor

Pleasanton and Alameda County reached an agreement in July that allowed the city to acquire a 10-acre transportation corridor slicing through downtown. The deal ends an 18-year effort by the city to gain control of the old train route that's so desperately needed for parking, pedestrian pathways and

building easements.

## E

### Extension gets conditional OK from City Council

The City Council gives a conditional OK to a Stoneridge Drive extension, which has been a contentious issue for many residents. Some who live in the Stoneridge area say they weren't informed about the extension and those living at the often gridlocked Valley Avenue-Santa Rita Road intersection say it's time for others to share the load of traffic.

## F

### Fraser named police's top dog

Michael Fraser was named Pleasanton's new police chief, succeeding Tim Neal, in January.

## G



Local artist Gary Winter paints the mural of Pleasanton's rural past on the side of Strizzi's restaurant downtown.

### Local artist Gary Winter paints mural

Artist Gary Winter painted a mural across the side of Strizzi's downtown, depicting old-time Pleasanton this past summer. Graduation is bliss

### Number of grads soars again

A record high 1,125 students graduated from both Amador Valley and Foothill high schools in June. The graduation ceremonies are so popular, that this year, like in years' past, officials set up overflow areas for viewing at the fairgrounds.

## H

### Home Depot project stirs pot of controversy

A bid for a second Home Depot at the corner of Bernal Avenue, Stanley Boulevard and Valley Avenue had a number of residents complaining that the store would put smaller home improvement stores out of business and would create unnecessary traffic. While the City Council initially supported the Home Depot, councilmembers recently said they changed their mind.



The funeral of Juanita Haugen drew hundreds who knew the education leader.

### Remembering Juanita Haugen

Longtime education leader Juanita Haugen died in March after a lengthy battle with cancer. Hundreds attended her funeral. A search for filling her open seat on school board began shortly after. The school district soon decided to appoint a replacement, and chose former Councilman and mayoral candidate Steve Brozosky. Today, Haugen's memory lives on with a number of local awards in her name.

### Hooters sign a hoax

A mystery prankster planted a sign on the under-restoration Kolln Hardware building downtown in August announcing Hooters is coming soon, giving the Weekly's number as the contact.

### Hosterman hawk issue ruffles feathers

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman's bid for a permit to house her hawk Ariel in her back yard ruffled the feathers of political foe Dan Carl, who says it is unsafe. The Planning Commission decided it can't approve her permit, saying the city doesn't have a code pertaining to wild animals. Hosterman appealed to the City Council this month.

# In F

# I

## Getting flak for Iraq chat

The City Council spent the early part of the year discussing whether to host a public forum on the Iraq War, which Jennifer Hosterman and Councilman Matt Sullivan supported, but ultimately decided to do nothing and move forward. Former Marine and Pleasanton resident Fred Norman has urged the council to hold a discussion, send a resolution to Washington or observe a moment of silence at the start of each council meeting to remember those killed in battle. Opponents of a public forum didn't belong in city politics.

# J

## Jerry McNerney becomes Congressman

Pleasanton's only Congressman, Jerry McNerney, takes the oath in February and enters office after Republican incumbent Ward Pombo lost in a surprising defeat.



Lt. Tom Fenner, who was the president of the Pleasanton school board.



Jennifer Hosterman shows her hawk Ariel at a library event.

# K

## Kottinger Creek restoration completed

After a seven-year effort by the Friends of Kottinger Creek, the restoration of the Kottinger Creek was completed this past spring. The work cost \$1.2 million.

# L

## Librarian Meltzer is Poet Laureate

School librarian Martha Meltzer was named Pleasanton's new Poet Laureate in May, succeeding Cynthia Bryant.

## Lockdowns affect high school campuses

A weapons threat led to the lockdown of the Amador Valley High School campus in October. It was called off after police found no credible evidence. A lockdown was also ordered for Village High School and the school district offices after someone allegedly threatened to shoot students and a teacher. Police barricaded and searched the property for two hours before calling it off. The alleged caller was found through cell phone bills and arrested earlier this month.

# M



Lt. Tom Fenner fielded the media frenzy that erupted after two mountain lion sightings were reported.

## Mountain lions startle residents

Two mountain lion sightings in March alerted school children, their parents and residents near Vintage Hills and Kottinger Ranch. In Vintage Hills, a neighbor discovered a wildcat in a resident's backyard while in Kottinger Park, one was seen near a fence bordering Valley View Elementary. Neither lion was ever found and no injuries were reported.

# N

## Not music to some ears

A blaring music festival, called the Nowroz Festival, at the fairgrounds in April disturbed local residents who flooded police lines with calls to complain. The event was a celebration of the Persian New Year. It was also Easter Sunday, when many residents said they were at home trying to enjoy the holiday with family.

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# Review

**O**

**Oak Grove**

Plans for 51 custom homes and dedication of nearly 500 acres of open space in the hills above Kottinger Ranch were approved by the City Council, but a citizen's group launched a petition drive to stop the development. Their initiative could make the November election ballot. Recently, the developers, the Lin family, filed suit against the citizen's group, saying they obtained the signatures illegally.

**P**

**Priest scandal rocks Catholic Community of Pleasanton**

In November, the parishes of St. Elizabeth Seton and St. Augustine Catholic churches were hit with news surrounding the incoming head of CCOP, Father Padraig Greene. Fr. Greene was arrested for lewd conduct eight years ago in a public restroom at an Oakland park. CCOP reports that only a small number of families have left CCOP in the wake of the news and others have been supportive and forgiving.

**Parcel tax weighed**

The subject of a school parcel tax was discussed throughout the year. A parcel tax study released in June showed 60 percent of people who responded felt there was "great to some level of need" for more money versus 32 percent who said there was "little or no need." This month, the school board decided to "press pause" on the tax after dis-

mal state budget projections were forecast.

**Pleasanton Middle School's API scores invalidated**

In a surprising announcement in September, the school district revealed that Pleasanton Middle School's 2006 API test scores were invalidated. The California Department of Education said handwritten copies of a 2005 practice science STAR test made by a Hart Middle School teacher and shared with other teachers during a summer 2005 meeting compromised the eighth grade science test scores at PMS, which were very high. While the school district considered appealing the

ruling, they decided in October not to.

**Q**

**Chamber head Bouchard quits**

Dave Bouchard resigned from the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce in August after nine years. Pleasanton resident Scott Raty, former head of the Hayward Chamber, was named the new CEO.

**R**

**Rebuilding continues for local church groups**

The rebuilding process in the Gulf Coast after the ravages of Hurricane Katrina continued, with local faith-based groups venturing on trips to help. Participants included members of Trinity Lutheran Church, Lynnewood United Methodist Church and Pleasanton Presbyterian Church.

**S**

**Staples Ranch**

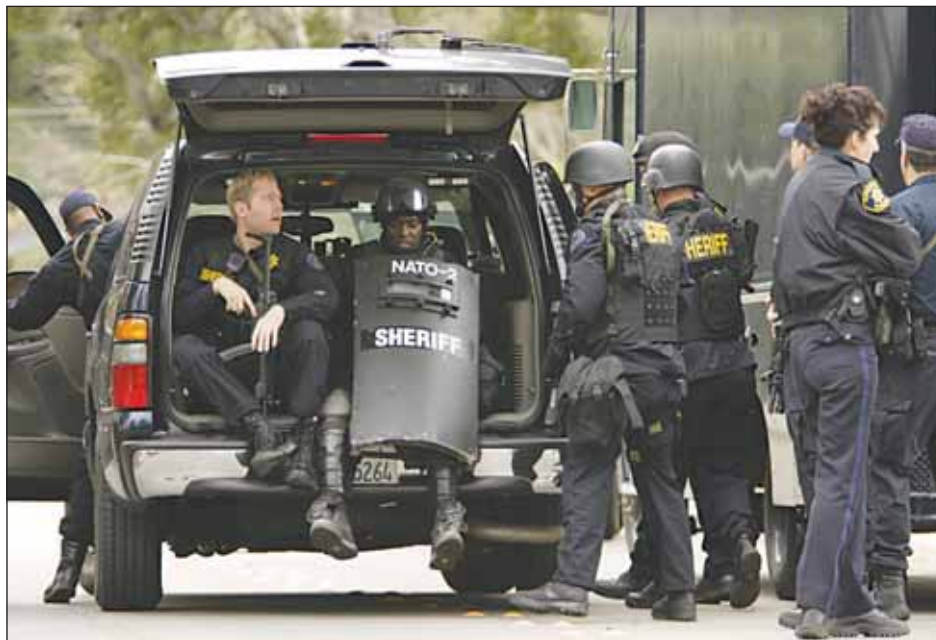
Plans for Staples Ranch, county-owned land in northeast Pleasanton, went back and forth. A citizen's group challenged the project, but later decided to join with a counter-citizen's group in support of Staples Ranch to work together toward future planning of the property, which is planned to include a large senior care community, auto mall, parkland and possibly a Sharks affiliate ice complex.

**Castlewood standoff**

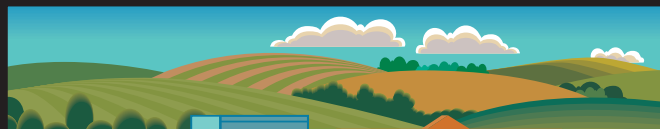
A SWAT standoff near the Castlewood Golf Course put residents on high alert in February. Forrest Chancellor, 45, of San Ramon, led police on a high speed police chase down Interstate 680, ending by holing himself up in a Castlewood home owned by his ex-girlfriend's grandmother. The standoff ended peacefully, however, and Chancellor was hauled off to jail.

**School leaders shuffle**

A number of positions changed hands this year within the Pleasanton Unified School



A SWAT standoff in Castlewood earlier this year startled residents of this usually quiet and relatively crime-free city.



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District. John Dwyer, former vice president at Foothill High School, was named principal in June. Former principal Kevin Johnson filled in for Senior Director of Pupil Services Rich Puppione, who retired. Fairlands Elementary School Principal Bill Faraghan became the new assistant superintendent for human resources, succeeding Clem Donaldson, who also retired. For the school board, Chris Grant was appointed after former president Steve Pulido filled a post as an Alameda County Superior Court judge. Former Councilman Steve Brozosky filled the open seat left vacant after longtime board member Juanita Haugen died.

**T**

**Town Square gains traction**

The Weekly embarked on new endeavors this past year, including the launch of a redesigned Web site and online Town Square forum, which has become increasingly popular over the past few months.

**U**

**Union Jack comes tumbling down**

Once a popular nighttime hangout, the building that housed the Union Jack Pub came crumbling down in July. Plans call for a two-story restaurant in its place at 725 Main St.

**V**

**Valley Avenue underpass opens**

The Valley Avenue underpass finally opened in July, but how many people really use it? The \$5.3-million project took longer than expected after some drainage problems were discovered.

**Veterans Memorial Building reopens**

The Veterans Memorial Building appropriately reopened in November, just in time for Veteran's Day. The building underwent a \$4.5-million renovation that displaced VFW Post 6298, American Legion Post 237 and the VFW Ladies Auxiliary.

**W**

**City works on municipal WiFi network**

It's been a work in progress for the city to operate a new municipal WiFi network where those who gather downtown can connect on their laptops or phones through a free wireless connection. While a ribbon cutting was planned this past fall, one has yet to be held.

**X**

**X-rated activity uncovered at Main Street business**

Police shut down Tranquility Health Center, formerly located at 739-E Main St. in July. The news was revealed in September, that the shutdown was due to alleged pros-



The Union Jack Pub building came tumbling down this summer.



The Veterans Memorial Building on Main Street was reopened in November after a \$4.5-million restoration.

titution performed by employees of the massage parlor.

**Y**

**Youth tragedies**

A number of teen deaths alarmed the community and particularly parents this year. The school district and police held several town hall meetings on the subject. The first death was that of 16-year-old Kyle O'Connor, a Foothill High basketball player, who was killed in January when the car he was riding in crashed into the side of the DMV build-

ing. In October, 19-year-old Laurel Williams was the passenger in a car that collided head-on on Foothill Road. She was killed, while her driver, Katie McKewon, now faces gross vehicular manslaughter and felony DUI charges. In late October, two teens committed suicide, determined to be unrelated to one another. The events triggered the school district to hold a town hall meeting on the matter in November.

**Z**

**Zone 7 deals with water crisis**

A pump shutdown at the Delta threatened to affect Pleasanton residents' water supply. The crisis first began in April after a lawsuit was filed by a sports fisherman group concerned that the Delta water pumps were sucking fish into the piping and killing them. That led to the state shutting down the pumps for over a week and later, limiting pumping levels. ■

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With the 100% match, a total of \$95,010 has been raised for the eight 2007 beneficiaries.

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



Insured or uninsured, Axis Community Health sees patients 365 days a year.

## Lending a helping hand to those in need

*Axis Community Health provides affordable healthcare solutions to families*

by Tyler Bierbower

During the holiday season an old saying comes to mind: giving is better than receiving. This is a guideline that Axis Community Health follows 365 days per year.

Axis Community Health began in 1972 to provide health care for low-income children with no other means of obtaining it. Since that time they have continued to develop and now provide services to people of all ages for many different mental and physical conditions. Axis provides a wide range of services to its patients including general medicine, family planning, pediatrics, behavioral health and drug and alcohol counseling. Because they are the only means of healthcare for uninsured families the amount of patients has been steadily increasing.

With 14,000 active patient charts and an average of 250 new patients per month funding has been tight, "there is a tremendous need for funding in the medical clinic," said Polly Sellers, chatroom supervisor for Axis.

Although the bulk of the patients that come to Axis are uninsured, they are not turned away. In order to be a patient you must attend an eligibility appointment and

the eligibility staff determines, based upon family size and income, which program would best suit the patient's needs.

"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.

Axis Health also helps manage WIC, which stands for Women Infants and Children and provides the proper food and nutritional supplements for pregnant women and young children that cannot otherwise afford it. Another program that Axis helps assist is court-ordered DUI courses.

More recently Axis has been funded to set up a diabetes database that will help manage the care of the diabetes patients and organize their annual exams.

Funding is obtained through the Axis Health Foundation, which is a group of volunteers that works to generate donations within the community. They also are provided with city, county and state funding.

The funding from the Holiday Fund will help cover the costs that Axis takes upon themselves when other options have been exhausted according to Carol Beddome, development director. ■

### 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.



# 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.

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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

### The AMT patch: Will it ever end?

Whew! Once again, Congress has spared millions of middle-class taxpayers, including nearly three-fourths of all Pleasanton taxpayers, higher tax bills for 2007. The tax reprieve again, though, only postpones the impact of the alternative minimum tax (AMT) for another year when it's likely that we'll have to await another congressional rescue, and this just after the November General Election. Without this tax, the AMT would have caused some 25 million filers to pay the tax on their 2007 income, up from 4 million who paid it on 2006 income. The last-minute action delayed advance preparation of taxes and also delayed final tax publication and online filing services, meaning that many will face delays in any refunds they have on their 2007 returns. The IRS needs about seven weeks after the law is approved to change its forms.

For individuals, the AMT schedule would have affected those with \$62,550 for married couples filing jointly, down from \$66,250, and \$42,500 for individual filers, down from \$44,350. Those higher amounts will now stay in place. The AMT requires taxpayers to make separate calculations for items like medical expenses and state and local taxes and generally pay higher taxes as a result. On average, estimates are that more than half of all Pleasanton taxpayers would have paid an average of \$3,000 more on their federal taxes for 2007.

The AMT was created in 1969 to ensure that a small number of wealthy taxpayers couldn't avoid paying any taxes. But the law was never adjusted for inflation. More taxpayers got snared by the AMT every year as their income rose. The bracket creep that subjects more and more incomes to the AMT is likely to continue unless Congress takes action to repeal this 38-year-old law. A good question to put to congressional and Senate candidates this year is who they plan to deal with the AMT so that taxpayers can better plan in the future.

## State budget crisis looms again

Speaking of taxes, we're glad to see that both the school district and City Council have apparently shelved plans for parcel taxes or new bond measures given taxpayer surveys conducted by both agencies. But up in Sacramento, the revenue shortfall continues, which means money once again could be siphoned from city coffers and revenue intended for school district, including ours, could be significantly reduced from expectations. Faced with an estimated \$14-billion deficit, Gov. Schwarzenegger is not far behind his recalled predecessor Gov. Gray Davis.

When Schwarzenegger ran for governor in 2003, he promised to "end the crazy deficit spending," but here we are again. Already, school district Superintendent John Casey has warned that cutbacks could be coming if state education funds don't keep pace with rising costs to keep California schools adequately funded. With two of Pleasanton's State Assemblymembers seeking reelection—Alberto Torrico (D-20th) and Mary Hayashi (D-18th)—and a spirited race in the 15th District, another question for the politicians is how they would manage the budget crisis and end it.

## Your Turn

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

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

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

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

## Letters

### Pleasanton not homogenous small town

Dear Editor,

It's with great disappointment and dismay that I read your column of Dec. 7 ("Whatever happened to Christmas?" Around Pleasanton, page 3) and the subsequent letters to the editor about the use of "Holiday Parade" instead of "Christmas Parade."

The reality of Pleasanton in 2007 is that we are a bustling regional hub and are no longer a homogenous little town. Among our 70,000 residents are people of many different faiths and backgrounds. Not of all of them remember being 5 and counting the days to Christmas as you described, because not all of them celebrated Christmas as children.

I fail to see how calling it a holiday parade instead of a Christmas parade materially impacts any Christian's ability to enjoy the event. Doesn't Santa still come on the fire engine? What this simple linguistic swap does do, is to make it more welcoming for all of Pleasanton's families to participate in the parade festivities.

It can be uncomfortable to be reminded that not everyone shares your world view, as it forces you to consider your own beliefs and assumptions. It's human nature to react strongly to this and to want to ignore the presence of a different perspective. However, as the voice of the community, the Weekly needs to rise above this and look out for all of the residents of Pleasanton, not just the majority who are Christian.

I hope that you will more carefully consider your responsibility to the entire community in future articles, and will be a voice for

tolerance and inclusiveness.

*Brian Pearce  
Pleasanton*

### Religious fervor is overheated

Dear Editor,

I am a baptized Catholic that became an atheist shortly after that event. I want all Americans to be able to worship the god of their choice and still enjoy Christmas as a wonderful family time and an excuse to over eat and over imbibe great wine. That being said, I am concerned that religious fervor has become overheated and threatens the separation of church and state. This is a constitutional secular democracy. It will not be better if one religion pushes its way into our government and our schools.

*Bill Carmon  
Pleasanton*

### Lights leaving large carbon footprint

Dear Editor,

After seeing your story on the local Christmas lights ("Lighting up the night sky," Cover Story, Dec. 21, page 14), I'm wondering if next year the lighters would consider the environmental effects of their decorations.

I shudder to think of Pleasanton's collective December carbon footprint. The ancients lit a yule log and burned candles to anticipate the "return of the sun" at the winter solstice.

Let us decorate thoughtfully, whether we're commemorating Jesus' birth in the dark in a stable or any of our winter holidays.

*Nancy Freedom  
Pleasanton*

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# Talking Points

by Gina Channell-Allen



## We regret the error: The best of the worst

Mistakes happen. Nobody is exempt. That truth is painfully obvious on [www.regrettheerror.com](http://www.regrettheerror.com). Most journalists want their words online read by as many visitors as possible—except on this Web site.

Annually Regret the Error lists the best of the worst of the year in errors and corrections—the dumbest, silliest and most humorous from newspapers around the globe. Since we are in year-end roundup mode, I would like to share with you a few from the list, as written and compiled by Craig Silverman of Regret the Error.

- New York Times: “There was also an unfortunate typo in The New York Times that may have led some readers to think the Obamas have a rocky marriage: ‘A front-page article yesterday about the role that Barack Obama’s wife, Michelle, is playing in his presidential campaign rendered incorrectly a word in a quotation from Valerie Jarrett, a friend of the Obamas who commented on their decision that he would run. She said in a telephone interview, ‘Barack and Michelle thought long and hard about this decision before they made it’—not that they ‘fought’ long and hard.”

- New York Daily News: “A headline in Monday’s Daily News, ‘He regrets his role in ‘postal’ vid,’ implied that Richard Marino, the subject of a YouTube video, was sorry for an incident in December at a Brooklyn post office. Marino, in fact, is not sorry. The News regrets the error.”

- The Houston Chronicle, “In attempting to explain (Anna Nicole Smith’s) humble origins, the paper gave itself a measure of comeuppance. And that’s what makes it the typo of the year. A photo caption in the paper read: ‘When Redding, a longtime scout for Playboy, discovered Smith, the model could barely right a sentence.’”

- The Union Leader (Manchester, N.H.): “Due to a reporting error, a story on Page A2 in Saturday’s edition of the New Hampshire Union Leader misquoted University of New Hampshire employee Bernardine Schultz. She said Professor John Collins was prone to giving students ‘easy A’s,’ not that he had ‘lazy aides.’”

- Bloomfield (Ind.) Free Press: “Mark Twain once said, ‘The reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated.’ In this week’s edition of the

Bloomfield Free Press, we mistakenly listed former body shop owner Earl Haywood as being deceased. After speaking with Mr. Haywood on the telephone this afternoon, it is obvious that he is anything but. The Bloomfield Free Press mistakenly confused him with another Earl Haywood—a former Bloomfield Town Councilman—who passed away last summer. Our apologies, and the wishes that Mr. Haywood is with us for years to come.”

- The Mirror (UK): “Big Brother’s Carole is a sexual health worker, not a sex worker, which usually means something rather different.”

- Sunday Star-Times (New Zealand): “Our story on the price of tomatoes last week misquoted Alistair Petrie, general manager of Turners and Growers. Discussing the price of tomatoes Petrie was talking about retail rate not retail rape. We apologize for the misunderstanding.”

- Daily Telegraph (UK): “APOLOGY: In Friday’s article on Liz Hurley’s wedding it was wrongly stated that the actress is holding a pheasant shoot on the Sunday after the ceremony. Game shooting is of course illegal on Sundays and the pheasant season ended on Feb 1. We apologize for the error and accept that if any shooting is to be done it will be by the paparazzi, who have no season and do not observe the Sabbath.”

In no way do I mean to poke fun at the newspapers listed here or make light of the pain, embarrassment or grief caused by these errors. It just goes to show that newspaper editors have to be accountable for mistakes, which will inevitably happen, be humble enough to admit the mistake, and have a really good sense of humor.

### If I were the publisher

Have you ever thought to yourself, “If I ran the Pleasanton Weekly, I would do things differently?” I would like to hear your ideas.

And, as always, I love to get questions and comments.

*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](mailto:gallen@pleasantonweekly.com).*

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## Pleasanton Real Estate News



by Gerarda Stocking

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Anyone who has sought a helper who provides great service... a car repairman whose work can truly be trusted... a hairdresser who seems to get it right every time... knows how invaluable these people can be in your life. This is not an area where we want to slice the cost as much as possible; we usually want to make sure that the quality of the service we receive is appreciated and will continue.

Okay—so we just moved into town. How do we start putting together our team of people who provide needed services? We ask—friends, business associates, people we meet in any organization we join, whether social or professional or religious, and the real estate and mortgage professionals who helped us relocate. We seek out people with great reputations.

Then we treat them as well as they treat us. Remember—guiding someone to a professional who provides great service is one of the most appreciated things you can ever do! 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.*

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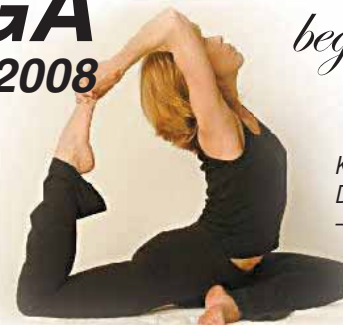
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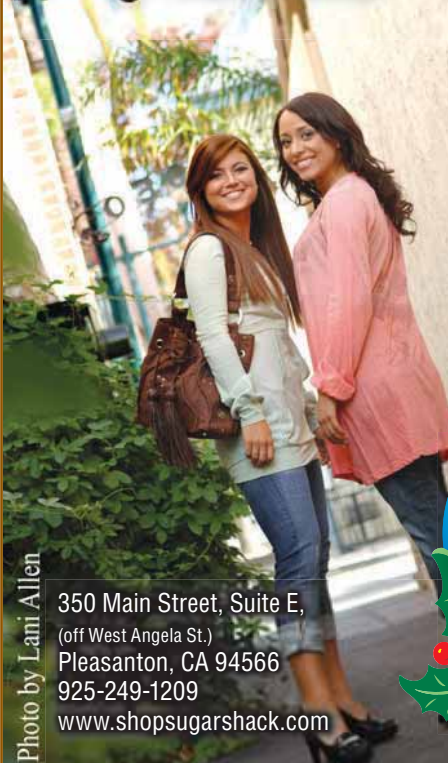


Photo by Lami Allen

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## What's your opinion?

Write a Letter to the editor at [Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com) or put your opinion on Town Square at [www.PleasantonWeekly.com](http://www.PleasantonWeekly.com)

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# Transitions

## Obituaries

### F. Roger McLain

F. Roger McLain, a former Pleasanton City Councilman and active volunteer, died Dec. 18 in Danville. He was 77.

He and his family moved to Pleasanton in 1966. He started on the Housing Authority board in 1968 and served as chair and vice-chair. He then moved to the Planning Commission and finally was appointed to the City Council to fill a vacancy left by the incumbent's election to the State Assembly.



For his work on the Housing Authority, he was presented with the Mayor's Award in 1972. He also received three commendations from the city for his service and was recognized in 2005 with the Ed Kinney Community Patriot Award, named for the former mayor who served with Mr. McLain on the City Council.

Professionally, Mr. McLain worked 32 years as a senior engineering associate at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. After retiring from the lab in 1986, he turned his photography hobby into a small business, Assured Photography. In addition to his photography, he also liked sail boating and power boating as well as stamp collecting.

Mr. McLain was a volunteer firefighter for years, both in San Lorenzo and with the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory department. He served a total of 36 years in the Armed Forces Reserves, spent one year with the Navy reserves, 27 with the California National Guard and the final eight with the U.S. Army Reserve, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1983.

Mr. McLain loved participating with the Pleasanton Lions Club, a group he joined after retiring from the lab. He consistently pushed the Lions In Sight program, collecting used eye glasses from boxes that he placed throughout the Livermore Valley.

He was a member of the Pleasanton Presbyterian Church

and traveled to Africa in 1991 with a group from the church led by Carl Bosteels, the senior pastor at the time.

He was born in Seattle to Alice and Francis Hurlbut. His father was killed in a motorcycle accident in 1941. His mother then married Roy G. McLain, who later adopted him and his brother, Mort.

He graduated from San Leandro High School in 1948. He earned a bachelor's of science degree in human relations from the University of San Francisco near the end of his career at the lab.

McLain is survived by his wife of 57 years, Peggy. They met when Peggy was 15 and were married three years later. They have two daughters, Pamela Hammerman and husband, Howard, of Antioch; and Cynthia Fong and husband Roger Fong of Discovery Bay. He also has a granddaughter, Nicole Saenz, and two grandsons, Joey and Justin Fong.

He also is survived his sister, Cheryl Baldwin of LaPine, Ore. His brother, Mort McLain, died in 1970 in a helicopter crash in Borneo.

A memorial service will be held on at 11 a.m. Jan. 12, at Lighthouse Baptist Church, 118 Neal St. in Pleasanton.

The family prefers contributions in his memory to the Lions In Sight program, 1838 Sunnyvale Ave., Walnut Creek, CA 94597.

### Debra Caldwell Cantor

Debra Cantor died suddenly Dec. 17 in Dublin. She was 43 years old.

Mrs. Cantor was born Sept. 10, 1964 in Kittery, Maine, the daughter



of Alfred and Peggy Caldwell. She spent much of her childhood in New Hampshire, also living in such places as Okinawa, Va., and Kentucky as her family relocated with her father's Air Force career. Most recently, she had lived in California for the past three years, and in Pleasanton for a time.

Graduating from Dover High School in 1983, Mrs. Cantor subsequently worked at NesLab in Newington, N.H., where she met her husband, Evan Cantor. They shared 19 happy years together—a special relationship that was admired by many.

In addition to great love of family, Debbie and Evan shared an enthusiasm for travel. Together they made many trips throughout Europe and North America. Mrs. Cantor was passionate about cooking, to the delight of all who knew her. She also enjoyed gardening and painting.

Members of her loving family include her husband, Evan Cantor of Dublin; her parents, Alfred and Peggy Caldwell of Dover; her sister, Janice Butler and Janice's husband, Tom of Rochester, N.Y.; two brothers-in-law, Ron Cantor and his wife, Alexandra Bennett of Syracuse, N.Y. and Jeff Cantor and his wife, Kathy of Surprise, Ariz. She is also survived by six nephews and nieces including Spc. Michael Butler, U.S. Army, Ft. Hood, Texas, Stephen Butler of Rochester, N.Y., Annika and Nicklaus Cantor of Surprise, Ariz.; Katharine and Julia Cantor Bennett of Syracuse, N.Y.; and several aunts, uncles and cousins. She also leaves behind many close friends throughout the world.

Services were held Dec. 21 and 22 in Dover, N.H.

Flowers are welcome, as are memorials in Mrs. Cantor's name to the charity of one's choice.

Visit [www.taskerfh.com](http://www.taskerfh.com) for more information or to sign an online guest book.

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# Community Pulse



## WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

### City Council

Tuesday, January 1, 2008

- Due to the New Year's Day Holiday on January 1, 2008, the City Council meeting has been cancelled. The next regular City Council meeting will be held on January 15, 2008.

### Upcoming Meeting Dates

- Civic Arts Commission – January 7, 2008
- Human Services Commission, Special Meeting – January 9, 2008
- Planning Commission – January 9, 2008
- Youth Commission – January 9, 2008
- Library Commission – January 10, 2008
- Parks & Recreation Commission – January 10, 2008
- City Council Meeting – January 15, 2008

### 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.

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)

## Police Bulletin

### Police stress New Year safety

While Christmas is over, Pleasanton police are cautioning residents to watch out for crime during the New Year holiday.

Pleasanton Police Cpt. Eric Finn offered the following tips to help avoid a car burglary:

- Lock your vehicle at all times
- Remove valuables from the vehicle
- Do not leave anything of value in plain view
- Report suspicious persons in parking lots or residential neighborhoods
- Be aware that many crimes happen during early morning hours
- Another issue with the upcoming holiday is fireworks.
- They are illegal in Alameda County, except for

Dublin

- They are a fire hazard
- People can seriously injure themselves and others

Drunk driving is also a concern this time of year.

- Put all the local taxi numbers into your cell phone prior to going out
- Have a designated driver. If not, pre-arrange with someone that you know will be sober
- Use public transportation. Know the various schedules.
- Determine where you are going and try to stay off the roads
- Plan on staying somewhere and not leaving
- Make sure you have the local police departments number in your phone—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.

#### Dec. 15

- Theft:
  - 9:30 a.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; grand theft auto
- Domestic violence:
  - 11:18 a.m. in the 6400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Public Drunkenness:
  - 2:02 p.m. in the 5500 block of Springdale Avenue

#### Dec. 16

- Theft:
  - 1:25 p.m. in the 2200 block of Segundo Court; grand theft auto
- Assault:
  - 2:22 a.m. at the intersection of West Las Positas Boulevard and Santa Rita Road; assault with a deadly weapon
- Burglary:
  - 7:58 p.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard
- Domestic abuse:
  - 7:26 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road
  - 7:46 p.m. in the 2100 block of Armstrong Drive
- Public drunkenness:
  - 12:18 p.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard
- Mental health danger:
  - 4:20 a.m. in the 2100 block of Cascara Court

#### Dec. 17

- Vandalism:
  - 9:00 a.m. in the 4300 block of Black Avenue; worth less than \$400
- Burglary:
  - 9:35 a.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Alcohol and drug violations:
  - 8:26 a.m. at the intersection of Cochise Way and Navajo Court; public drunkenness
  - 9:40 p.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Gibraltar Drive; driving with marijuana
- Lost property:
  - 1:02 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Dec. 18

- Theft:

- 9:05 a.m. in the 5500 block of Springdale Drive; grand theft
- 3:22 p.m. in the 4100 block of Payne Road; identity theft
- 4:15 a.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft

- Burglary:
  - 4:23 p.m. in the 3700 block of Brockton Drive
- Alcohol and drug violations:
  - 3:20 p.m. in the 5800 block of Owens Drive; public drunkenness
  - 9:06 p.m. at the intersection of First Street and Neal Street; under the influence of a controlled substance
- Found property:
  - 6:06 p.m. in the 4200 block of Hacienda Drive

#### Dec. 19

- Theft:
  - 4:15 a.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- Vandalism:
  - 3:38 p.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road; worth less than \$400
- Alcohol and drug violations:
  - 1:18 a.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge Drive and West Las Positas Boulevard; DUI
  - 6:03 p.m. in the 3000 block of Bernal Avenue; DUI
  - 6:03 p.m. in the 3000 block of Bernal Avenue; under the influence of a controlled substance
- Other:
  - 7:12 a.m. in the 2400 block of Santa Rita Road; forgery
  - 8:13 a.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and Meadowlark Lane

#### Dec. 20

- Burglary:
  - 7:04 a.m. in the 4300 block of Hacienda Drive
  - 7:28 a.m. in the 3000 block of Bolero Court
  - 8:32 a.m. in the 3000 block of Bolero Court
  - 1:14 p.m. in the 2000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
  - 4:56 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
  - 4:59 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
  - 5:01 p.m. in the 1000 block of

- Stoneridge Mall Road
- 6:15 p.m. in the 2700 block of Lylewood Drive
- Alcohol and drug violations:
  - 1:09 a.m. in the 2900 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
  - 2:10 a.m. in the 4300 block of Hacienda Drive; DUI
  - 3:03 a.m. in the 2300 block of Redberry Court; public drunkenness
  - 9:07 a.m. in the 4400 block of Black Avenue; public drunkenness
  - 6:49 p.m. in the 4400 block of Valley Avenue; possession of marijuana
  - 8:58 p.m. at the intersection of Main Street and Ray Street; DUI
- Other:
  - 11:38 a.m. in the 4600 block of First Street; forgery
  - 10:30 p.m. in the 3900 block of Stoneridge Drive; mental health danger

#### Dec. 21

- Vandalism:
  - 7:31 a.m. in the 3900 block of Valley Avenue; worth more than \$400
  - 5:26 p.m. in the 500 block of Main Street; worth less than \$400
- Assault:
  - 7:13 p.m. in the 500 block of Main Street
- Burglary:
  - 8:00 a.m. in the 1000 block of Sycamore Creek Way
  - 8:20 a.m. in the 1100 block of West Lagoon Road
- Alcohol and drug violations:
  - 1:09 a.m. in the 2900 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
  - 3:03 a.m. in the 2300 block of Redberry Court; public drunkenness
  - 9:59 p.m. at the intersection of Dougherty Road and Sierra Lane; DUI
  - 10:44 p.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and First Street
  - 11:48 p.m. in the 3300 block of Hopyard Road; DUI
  - 11:40 p.m. in the 3000 block of Hopyard Road; DUI
- Mental health danger:
  - 10:31 a.m. in the 200 block of Spring Street

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