

Going green

Love for the earth is all around the Tri-Valley **Section 2**

Vol. IX, Number 12 • April 18, 2008

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Plea deal reached

Drunk driver to be sentenced for four years

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PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Dining Out

A guide to local restaurants inside this issue



WHO KILLED TINA FAELZ?

After 24 years, teen's family and Pleasanton police still seeking answers to heinous crime

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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Saving Planet Earth at Hearst school

When it comes to observing Earth Day next Tuesday, students and their parents at Hearst Elementary School have to go no farther than to their new outdoor classroom and science teacher Kim Lounsbury. Affectionately called the Queen of Green and a teacher for the last 12 years, she has the responsibility of teaching science to the school's 604 first-to-fifth graders. Planet Earth is her favorite topic so Earth Day gives her a chance to talk about one of her biggest passions, the outdoor garden classroom she is building just outside the school lunchroom. She started the project when Hearst School and its principal Mike Kuhfal embraced the school district's "Go Green" environmental program. After several years of hard work, it's taking shape.

Measuring 82-by-82 feet, this is no ordinary backyard garden. Each plant has a mission, including the freshly planted milkweed that Lounsbury hopes will attract back the Monarch butterflies that used to flutter through the area but are gradually disappearing. The Monarch is actually the Hearst School symbol and each year the school's second grade classes release butterflies they've raised as caterpillars at home. Instead of flying away, Lounsbury hopes her garden will provide the food sources Monarch's need. With the help of parent volunteers, including Robyn Battaglia, a botanist, and her husband Paul Hrycewicz, a computer sales manager with obvious carpentering skills, she has moved 10 cubic yards of soil into six separate garden areas, with wood sides to mound the gardens and even an arbor that will someday be covered by vines. Although \$44,000 has been spent on the project so far, most has come from grants with less than \$3,000 from school district funds.

As skilled at writing grants as she is at teaching science, Lounsbury has received so much money in project grant that fellow teachers joke that the school district

should send her to Sacramento to help bail out the state's financial deficit. One of her major purchases was an \$11,000 in-vessel composting system called the Earth Tub. This 4-foot-high, 6-foot-wide electric unit has a power auger that operates continuously. At lunchtime, parent volunteer Iris Gan helps Lounsbury and other teachers work with children to put recyclables in special bins and anything that can be composted into the Earth Tub. One of Lounsbury's pet peeves has been the waste she sees in the lunchroom, from half-eaten apples to bananas that are never peeled but grabbed from the lunch line because they're there. In a stepped-up campaign to educate students about waste, Lounsbury has cut discards by half.

Lounsbury mission as a science teacher is to teach children to become stewards of the earth. She considers her job much more than academics. Her message to children is that they already are scientists because they behave that way. They ask a lot of questions, they are curious and they try to find the answers. She teaches them the five basic principles of the GREEN initiative: G is for generate compost; R=recycle everything that cannot be reused and purchase only items that can be recycled; E=educate them on environmentally responsible behavior; E=evaluate the environmental impact on every activity; and, N, nationalize the principles of responsible paper consumption.

Her outdoor classroom garden, where her students have planted saplings and perennials, sits in striking contrast to Hearst's manicured play fields that stretch to Valley Avenue. Besides the mounded sections of dirt and plants, eight benches circles on the center where classes, demonstrations and Planet Earth preservation lessons are conducted. The surroundings will be enhanced even more tomorrow when another 4,000 pounds of rocks will be moved from the school parking lot to the garden. Lounsbury needs volunteers from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to help. Come by if you can. ■

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About the Cover

It's been 24 years this month since Tina Faelz was brutally stabbed to death while walking home from Foothill High School to her Valley Trails home on a back route used by students. Since then, some suspects have been eliminated and some remain as "persons of interest," but police are still unable to link anyone to the heinous crime. Cover design by Manuel Valenzuela.

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Streetwise

Q: What was your most memorable childhood vacation?

Asked Downtown



Julie Weingart
Stay at Home Mom

My vacation in the Gulf of Mexico in Florida. I was 9 or 10. The weather was always beautiful. We went several summers with good friends and family. It was always fun.

Amy Carlson

Accountant

Every summer my family and I would camp up north in Michigan. All of my mom's family joined us. I spent quality time with my cousins; it was very memorable.



Leilani Taziri

Account Executive

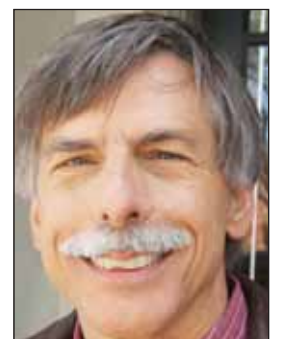
I played a lot of softball. We camped across country going to softball tournaments. We would load up the car and head to Arizona, Utah and Nevada every weekend for six years. We never took a fancy vacation but I have many great memories of those times.



Joe Houska

Manager

There was only one. I came from a large family of five. We went to Iron Mountain Lake in Missouri. My younger sister came down with the measles. Seven of us bunked in a two-room cabin. We bailed out after two days. We ended up with 12 children in the family. It became virtually impossible to take family vacations.



Warren Howe

Livermore Rodeo Director

We went to the ranch in Utah every year. We worked hard out there, fixing fences, chasing cattle, hauling hay. We had a lot of fun working.



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

Compiled by Cybele Ryan

E-Waste Collection Event

For the Pleasanton Community

TVs and computer monitors contain lead and cannot be thrown in the trash. Other electronics may also contain toxic components, and can be recycled or reused.

The City of Pleasanton is making it easy to recycle or properly dispose of your unwanted electronics (E-waste) with a free, weekend collection event.

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Newsfront

News Digest

School program closes Foothill Road

As a part of the Every 15 Minutes anti-DUI program, a portion of Foothill Road near Foothill High School will be closed from 8:30 a.m. to about 2 p.m. Tuesday. The road between West Las Positas Boulevard and Muirwood Drive will be the stage to students, law enforcement and emergency personnel as a mock DUI-related crash will educate juniors and seniors on the realities of drinking and driving. Residents may also hear sirens and a helicopter, but it is part of the program. Call 931-5100 for details.

Book sale is back at the library

The Friends of the Pleasanton Library is back with its spring book sale April 25 to 27 at the library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. The Friday sale, from 7 to 9 p.m. is open to Friends members only. The public is invited from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and noon to 3 p.m. Sunday to buy books, videos, DVDs, CDs, games, cards, maps and more. Paperback books are 50 cents and hardback books are \$1. Proceeds support the library and fund special projects.

Meat, seafood sales benefit FHS sports

The Foothill Athletic Boosters will hold a meat and seafood sale from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday in the school's parking lot. The meat selection includes filet mignon, rib-eye steaks, top sirloin, New York steaks, bacon, ground beef and sausages. The seafood selection includes shrimp and scallops. A butcher will be on-site to cut meat.

Schools push for sustainable future

Energy and the environment are the focus of eFair Pleasanton from 6 to 8 p.m. April 23 in the Hart Middle School gym. The theme "Flip That Switch" alludes to the recent activation of the "solar school district." At 5 p.m., district staff, student and partners will hold a press conference. The eFair will teach people of all ages about saving energy and money while showcasing the environmental education programs.

Corrections

In last week's story (page 16), "Narum to step down as Seahawks president," we should have stated that Lisa Narum is a senior at Foothill High School.

The April 4 police report (page 12) incorrectly stated that drug and armed gang activity occurred in Pleasanton. The Pleasanton Police Department assisted a case at 12:29 p.m. March 27 on Meekland Avenue in Hayward.

Ayala seeks to block hillside developments

New petition also would seek stricter rules on housing cap

by Jeb Bing

Former Councilwoman Kay Ayala was back before the City Council Tuesday, this time with another 5,000 signatures on a petition for an initiative to stop hillside development and to enforce the city's 29,000-unit housing cap.

Following close on the heels of an earlier petition that sought a voter referendum to stop the planned Oak Grove housing development, this initiative would prevent development on hills with slopes greater than 25 percent.

"It's a great day for Pleasanton

when more than 5,000 citizens help us to fulfill the policy of the 1996 General Plan," Ayala told the council. "The initiative that we submitted today will make this happen."

The petitions submitted Tuesday to City Clerk Karen Diaz must follow the same process as those filed in December. Diaz now forwards them to the County Registrar's office, which will determine if enough signatures are from registered voters representing at least 10 percent of those who voted in the last municipal election, or roughly 3,700 signatures. Ayala and her citizens' coalition, Save Pleasanton's

Hills, said their petitions had more than 6,000.

But the registrar was blocked from certifying similar petitions after Oak Grove developers and landowners won an Alameda County Superior Court suit that Ayala's and her group's signature gathering process was flawed in that effort. Ayala has appealed that ruling.

This new petition is for an initiative that would change the General Plan to stop development on steep slopes of land, even if the property is zoned residential. As explained by City Attorney Michael Roush:

• A referendum is basically an

effort to set aside an action taken by a city council or county board of supervisors that they had adopted as part of a General Plan, a Specific Plan or a development project, such as Oak Grove.

• An initiative, by contrast, is where a group of citizens seek to initiate a General Plan or Specific Plan change, or a new ordinance, or another legislative act.

Karla Brown and Bill Rasnick, co-organizers of the initiative, said their measure would also close a loophole in the 29,000-unit hous-

(continued on page 8)



Skaters and others enjoy refreshments at second floor restaurant while watching recreation skaters below at Logitech Sharks skating facility in San Jose. A similar four-sheet rink is planned for Pleasanton.

Ice rink on Staples gets commission's blessing

San Jose Sharks-affiliated facility would be part of 17-acre park

by Jeb Bing

The city's Parks and Recreation Commission voted 5-0 to recommend that the City Council approve a master plan for a new 17-acre community park on the yet-undeveloped Staples Ranch site that would include a 4-sheet recreational and club ice skating facility.

Staples Ranch is a 124-acre site at the southwest corner of I-580 and El Charro Road.

Without naming the operator of the ice rink, the commission's approval April 10 was clearly aimed at a proposal by the San Jose Arena Management company, a subsidiary of the San Jose Sharks hockey team.

The Sharks group has asked the city for approval of its plan to finance and operate a 116,000-square-foot facility on an 7-acre site (including parking) in the new community park, public land that the Sharks would lease for \$1 a year for 30 years. The organization operates all of the facilities associated with the Sharks, including the HP Pavilion where the hockey team plays, and "Sharks Ice" rinks in San Jose and Fremont, which are similar to what the group plans for Pleasanton.

Although it endorsed the plan, the Parks and Recreation Commission added stipulations that could cost the Sharks much more than just the ice facility. The commission said the Sharks must also help pay for some or all of the costs of developing the new community park, which

(continued on page 8)

Plea deal gives drunk driver 4 years in prison

Katie McKewon will be sentenced May 23 in Hayward

by Janet Pelletier

A drunk driver who killed her friend and seriously injured another driver has agreed to a plea deal that will give her four years in prison.

Katie Amanda McKewon, 20, pleaded no contest last Friday to one count of gross vehicular manslaughter, which can carry a sentence of four, six or eight years in prison. She also pleaded no contest to one count of felony DUI causing great bodily injury. Originally, McKewon was charged with four counts of felony DUI. With the deal, McKewon will serve four years in prison on the manslaughter charge and will serve no additional time for the DUI charge, which could have carried a 12-month sentence. Also as part of the deal, a prior charge of assault related to an incident last June was dropped.

Laurel Alice Williams, 19, was killed Oct. 20 when McKewon crossed over the dividing line on Foothill Road, just north of Highland Oaks Drive, into cross traffic, striking a Mercedes SUV and seriously injuring its driver.

Williams and McKewon, who were friends, had been at a house party the night before and consumed alcohol. McKewon had a blood alcohol read of .23, more than three times the legal limit for drivers who are 21.

During her prison time, she will not be eligible for parole.

"Never say never--that this can't happen to your own children," Alameda County Superior Court Judge Christine Moruza said before she adjourned.

Friends and family of Williams, who wore T-shirts with a picture of the Foothill High School graduate and pink ribbons, were crying and hugging after the plea was made.

"It's a tragedy. Nothing really makes it okay," said Ken Williams, Laurel Williams' father.

Williams, who said the past few months have been "horrible," said he wasn't disappointed that the sentence wasn't longer, saying that it doesn't change what happened.

"The important thing is that she's in a place where she can't hurt anyone else," he said. "Hopefully she learns her lesson."

In speaking about McKewon, Williams added that the message he'd like to send to parents is that they need to be actively involved in their children's lives and be a parent, not a friend.

McKewon will also be ordered to pay restitution to the victims' families, which can be anything from \$200-10,000. She will be sentenced at 8:45 a.m. May 23 at the Hayward courthouse.

The case of Paul Stonebarger, 21, who was charged separately with providing alcohol for the party McKewon and Williams attended, was continued Wednesday to June 12 at the Pleasanton courthouse. If convicted, he could face six months to a year in prison and a substantial fine. ■

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Teens open up on depression

Forum is second in an ongoing series relating to suicide, mental health

by Emily Atwood

Four teens bravely shared personal experiences with depression last Thursday night as a part of the Pleasanton Unified School District's "Teen to Teen" forum on depression and suicide. Organizers hoped the young voices would offer more insight into how to help young people dealing with mental health issues.

The students who shared told of times when they felt down and didn't know what to do about it. One young man who engaged in smoking and drinking while in elementary school, said that depression was an underlying factor in his drug and alcohol abuse that put him in rehab as a senior in high school.

"People don't take [suicide] seriously," he said. "Feeling depressed? [You need to say] this is how I'm going to help."

Another young woman said her depression began in middle school. She kept it inside, put a smile on her face and then she found her school work suffering and she began hanging out with the "bad kids." Eventually she was able to see a counselor and receive medication, but it took several tries to find the right one.

Kevin Johnson, senior director of pupil services, told parents that often the crowd of friends is a reflection of the child.

"Don't blame," he said. "Get help."

One way the district can help is by recommending a student for an outside counseling grant that pays for six sessions. There is also the anonymous tip line, at 417-5199, that can be used to help the district keep an eye on a student who may be struggling.

Another student said her experience was difficult because she didn't understand why she was feeling depressed. She said her mother would blame the feelings on hormones or high school struggles, but knew something was wrong to have those excuses for three years.

Parents were able to ask ques-

tions of the panelists, and most asked how they can help someone who is depressed.

"The best thing is not to overreact," one panelist said. "Don't freak out. Accept it and work with it."

"A lot of us are dying to talk about it," another panelist said, adding that the car is a great place to have a conversation.

Another panelist said letters from her mom were helpful because she could read them when she was ready.

The young man, who was hospitalized for his addictions and depression, at first resented his parents for it. Yet, looking back he said he was grateful. Another panelist said that while going through depression, she and her mom didn't get along. Now that she's receiving help, she said the relationship has strengthened and they are close.

Johnson recommended parents read the book, "Beautiful Boy" by David Sheff, which tells the story of a father trying to help his meth-addicted son. He also reminded them of organizations equipped to help, such as Axis Community Health in Pleasanton and Unite 4 Life (www.unite4life.com).

Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi (D-Castro Valley) also spoke about her experiences dealing with the loss of her sister to suicide. It led her to found the Iris Alliance Fund, a nonprofit project to prevent youth suicide and promote mental health in children and families. Currently she serves as commissioner on the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission and is pushing for a suicide hotline for each county.

Johnson said there will be two more forums on the same topic next year. The goal, he added, was to break the idea that depression is something to deal with in private.

"It's a community effort [to help students with depression]," he said, adding that he felt better about the future after hearing the panelists recount their experiences. ■

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Of Note

Flautist wins first place honors

Pleasanton Middle School sixth-grader Annie Wu won first place in the MTNA Junior Woodwind Competition March 29 in Denver, Colo.

The three-tiered Music Teachers National Association competitions begin at the state level. Winners of each state competition advanced to the division competition. Division winners then proceed to the national competition finals.

She received a cash prize and performed in a winners concert during the MTNA Denver 122nd annual conference. She was also invited to perform as a soloist with the Community Women's Orchestra in Oakland on April 13.

Annie, 12, started to play the flute at age 8 with Shao-Jiang Huang, the former principal flautist of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra. She currently studies flute with Esther Landau at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Preparatory Division.



E-waste collection to be held at fairgrounds this weekend

City moves event to fairgrounds due to last year's popularity

Residents can discard their old TVs, VCRs, computers and other electronic devices at a free e-waste collection this weekend, sponsored by the city of Pleasanton.

The collection will be held today through Sunday and due to the popularity of last year's collection, the city has moved the event to the

Alameda County Fairgrounds and partnered with Electronic Waste Management.

Drop-off hours are noon to 5 p.m. today, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Cars should enter at Gate 12 off Valley Avenue.

All types of electronic equipment can be dropped off, and there is no limit to the amount of qualifying items, although residents are encouraged to take an inventory of their e-waste items intended for

disposal. Items accepted include computer components, digital cameras, power cables, toner cartridges, video game systems, MP3 players, keyboards, DVD, and other electronic items, as well as household batteries and fluorescent light bulbs.

A full roster of items that will be accepted is listed at <http://noe-waste.com/calendar/event-display.php?114>. For more information, call 866-335-3373.

—Janet Pelletier

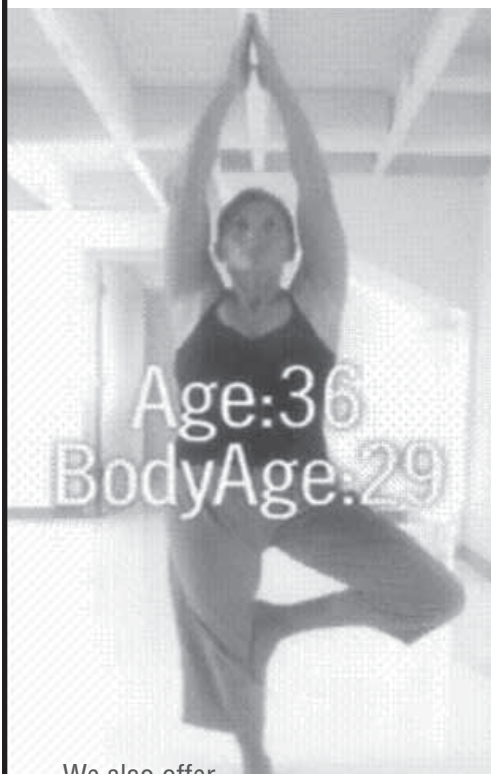
Take Us Along



Que Bueno!

Hart Middle School students bring the Weekly along to Spain, pictured here, and to France and Italy as well. From L-R: Lauren Johnson, Sylvia Cooley, Casey Mensinger, Becca O'Neil, Garrett, Andy Pinho, Matt Jacobs, Nick Grave, Kristen Carr, Sean O'Connell, Mrs. Mary Severo, Taylor Dragotta, Chris Chang and Derek Astilla.

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Oak Grove

(continued from page 5)

ing cap that was approved by voters in 1996. Their objective is to enforce "the spirit of the housing cap," according to Rasnick, and to make sure that all housing units with kitchens and bathrooms, including so-called "granny housing units," are counted toward the cap. They said recent actions by city planners and the council have indicated a willingness to move away from some of those housing specifics.

"The city has been approving these secondary units and saying they don't qualify as housing units," Brown said. "We want those to be counted. We want this on the ballot to enforce the housing cap because the public wants to slow down the growth factor in Pleasanton."

Although the process for placing an initiative on the ballot is the same in the early stages, the council's subsequent action differs.

Once the registrar's office certifies that enough qualified signatures were gathered, the council has the same two options as it would have had on the Oak Grove referendum bid which would be to adopt the referendum proposal and forego an election, or to send the issue to voters as a referendum.

With the initiative plan submitted Tuesday, the council will have a third option. It can order a study of the proposed initiative, with a time limit of 60 days for the study to be completed and subsequent action by the council to make the proposed changes at the council level or to ask voters to decide.

"Even with a study, we expect we will have enough time to get the initiative on the ballot by November," Ayala said.

Meanwhile, city staff, at the direction of the council, is also considering a regulation on hillside development. City Manager Nelson Fialho said several proposals on that issue could be considered by the council next month or in June. ■

Ice rink

(continued from page 5)

could add as much as \$5 million to its construction bill, and also to contribute "significantly" to lighted sports fields in Phase 2 of development planned for the Bernal property, a 318-acre site where the first project, three baseball fields, is just now starting.

"Also, any approval of the plan we are recommending should stipulate that the Staples park and the ice rink are developed concurrently," insisted Parks and Recreation Commissioner Jerry Pentin.

Specific terms of the financial package will be worked out with City Manager Nelson Fialho and his staff in the coming weeks with the City Council expected to consider the plan at a meeting in late May or early June.

Don Gralnek, vice president and general counsel of Silicon Valley Sports & Entertainment LLC, who represents San Jose Arena

Management, said the Sharks ice rink would offer everything related to any type of ice sports. These include both competitive and amateur hockey, hockey and skating teams for boys, girls, men and women, special ice hockey programs for the local high schools, figure skating, recreational skating and also special programs for the disabled.

"We'll have competitive meets that will draw crowds from throughout the region, adding to the economic benefits to this community," Gralnek said.

The community park master plan approved April 10 is part of a four-phase overall plan being developed for the unincorporated 124-acre Staples Ranch, which is owned by Alameda County.

Hendrick Automotive plans to develop a new auto mall on the site at the intersection of Interstate 580 and El Charro Road. Continuing Life Communities, a Southern California-based senior care organization, plans to build 600 units on the western side of the property that will include independent living, assisted living and skilled nursing care units. A retail complex is planned for a site along El Charro that also will be next to the community park.

An environmental impact report (EIR) on the proposals for Staples Ranch is scheduled to be completed and released next Thursday. Public comments on the EIR must be made within 60 days of its release.

The council is then expected to make final decisions on the auto mall, continuing care facility, the retail center and the community park and ice rink, in that order. The plans will be wrapped into an overall master plan for Staples Ranch, which will then be annexed into Pleasanton.

"Until everything is in place and we know what the plans and approvals are, then we can't start deciding on the specifics of our proposal," Gralnek told commissioners.

Staples would be the last major undeveloped site to come into the city until, and unless, Pleasanton adds more land on its eastern border. El Charro, still mostly a privately-owned road, eventually will be a major thoroughfare connecting the 580 freeway to Stanley Boulevard, with the Livermore city limits on one side and Pleasanton's on the other.

Besides the new Pleasanton auto mall at the El Charro-580 intersection, Livermore has approved a 180-store Prime Outlet mall on the southeast corner, directly across from Staples Ranch. The El Charro interchange will be widened to four lanes, with work to get underway later this year.

Although Staples Ranch will be annexed into Pleasanton, the City Council, in a memorandum of understanding, has agreed to allow Alameda County to continue to control a stretch of land at the end of Stoneridge Drive that would allow its extension through Staples to El Charro if a future City Council would favor the project.

Until then, Pleasanton residents, even those who live near the bar-

ricade where Stoneridge Drive now ends, would have to drive on 580 to El Charro to shop, dine, buy cars or visit residents at the continuing care facility. The Parks and Recreation Commission's new master plan for the community park, however, calls for a small public parking lot accessible at the barricade as well as a drop-off for skaters heading to the ice rink.

Other parts of the proposed community park that will not be directly accessible by car until Stoneridge Drive is extended include lighted tennis courts, a dog park and other recreational facilities, including a large central area of landscaped open space. To drive to those sections, motorists would have to use I-580.

"We've had many requests for an open meadow where kids can fly kites, families can have picnics or just walk around, and that's the intent in this park master plan," said Jim Wolfe, director of Parks and Community Services.

At its final public hearing on the issue, the Parks and Recreation Commission considered comments from scores of speakers and email messages from at least 50 others, with about 70 percent of those in favor of the park plan and the ice facility.

In written comments to the commission that were made public at the meeting, several organizations endorsed the Sharks ice rink proposal, including the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce and the Tri-Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB).

Amy Blaschka, president and chief executive officer of the CVB, said the ice facility would have significant and favorable economic impacts.

"Partnering with the Sharks Ice team on the proposed 4-rink Pleasanton Sharks Ice facility would provide approximately 9,900 booked hotel room nights annually which equates to nearly \$4 million in estimated economic impact," Blaschka stated. "This infusion of cash to the local economy would not only benefit hotels but restaurants, retail and other businesses as well."

Several of the 60 or more comments by Pleasanton residents in favor of the Sharks Ice facility included:

Pete Schalkoord: "The program the Sharks run at Logitech in San Jose is always filled to the limit. We can have the same situation here in Pleasanton. Let's keep our kids in sports and approve this fantastic opportunity that the Sharks are bringing to this community."

Priscilla Barton: "I have skated in places all over the world and have seen amazing skating communities. Please support this project." Pierre-Paul Allard: "Please give our Tri-Valley Blue Devils a new modern arena to play in and have fun. And give Pleasanton the sports facility we deserve."

Karen and Les Magoon: "Our children play ice hockey and the only available rink for many miles is the Dublin Ice Rink. It is very old and has no decent changing area of locker rooms." ■

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Community Pulse



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

Wednesday, April 23, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

• **PUD-73, Steve Maestas and Mike Carey**

Application for a Planned Unit Development (PUD) rezoning of an approximately .22-acre parcel from the RM-4,000 (Multiple-Family Residential) District to the PUD-HDR (Planned Unit Development – High Density Residential) District located at 204 Kottinger Drive.

• **PUD-62/PGPA-13, Windstar Communities, Inc.**

Applications for General Plan Amendment and Planned Unit Development (PUD) rezoning and development plan approval to construct a mixed-use, high-density residential/commercial development located at 6110 Stoneridge Mall Road.

• **PUD-99-01-07M, Jun Kim**

Application for a major modification to an approved Planned Unit Development (PUD) development plan reduce the rear and side yard setbacks for a water feature at the property located at 8024 Oak Creek Drive.

Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee Advisory Meeting

Monday, April 21, 2008 @ 6:30 p.m.
Council Chamber Conference Room, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Crosswalk on Mohr Avenue at Iron Horse Trail

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Community of Character Collaborative is seeking nominations for the first annual Juanita Haugen Community of Character Award to recognize citizens who consistently display sensitivity to relevant social issues and exhibit the traits of the Collaborative advocates: Responsibility, Compassion, Self Discipline, Honesty, Respect and Integrity. Nomination forms are available at the Pleasanton Unified School District at 4665 Bernal Avenue; the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce at 777 Peters Avenue; the City of Pleasanton City Clerk's office at 123 Main Street or at www.communityofcharacter.org. Forms may be turned into the Chamber office or faxed to 846-9697; turned into the School District office or faxed to 426-7146; or turned into the City Clerks' office or faxed to (925) 931-5492. Deadline for submitting nominees is May 1, 2008. The award recipients will be announced May 29, 2008 at the Community of Character Collaborative Celebration at the Hilton Hotel in Pleasanton.

Jobs Available at Aquatics Center

The City of Pleasanton is accepting applications for the following positions:

- Lifeguard, part-time temporary, \$8.61-\$10.47 per hour (depending on experience). Enforcement of pool use rules and proper conduct of participants during pool program activities. Must have current certifications in CPR for the Professional Rescuer, First Aid, and Lifeguarding at the time of application
- Water Safety Instructor, part-time temporary, \$11.03-\$13.41 per hours (depending on experience). Provides swim instruction to all ages. Must have current certifications in CPR for the Professional Rescuer, First Aid, Lifeguarding, and Water Safety Instruction at the time of application.

For more information about these positions, please visit our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/employment/

**ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
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The above represents a sampling of upcoming meeting items.
For complete information, please visit
www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar

Police Bulletin

Grandmother punched by sheriff imposter

Paula Thurman, 68, is recovering after being punched in the face by a man posing as a member of the Alameda County Sheriff's Department, according to police.

Around 10 a.m. last Saturday, the grandmother heard a knock on her front door and after asking who it was, the man allegedly replied that he was from the sheriff's department. Upon opening the door, the man reportedly asked her about her family before punching her in the face and fleeing.

Thurman locked the door and called police, who could not locate the man after an extensive search. She was eventually transported to Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley for treatment.

The man is described as a white male adult with brown hair, about 30 to 40 years old, who is about 5-feet, 6-inches tall and weighing 160 to 180 pounds. He was wearing a white tank top and dark jeans.

Anyone with information should call the Pleasanton Police Department at 931-5100.

Small fire leads to school evacuation

The gym roof at Phoebe Hearst Elementary School caught fire around 9:53 a.m. last Friday morning when workers were installing solar panels. It was put out before the fire department arrived and there was little damage to the building and no injuries were reported.

The gym building is separate from the classrooms, yet students were evacuated as the alarm sounded.

Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Zolfarelli, with the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department, said workers were weatherproofing the system by sealing a mat with a propane torch, but the roof caught fire.

Once firefighters arrived, they determined the fire was out and opened the gym doors for ventilation. Children were allowed back into the classrooms shortly after and no injuries were reported.

Zolfarelli said there was a little damage to the building, but none caused by smoke.

Police Report

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

April 7

- Theft:
 - 2:48 p.m. in the 3300 block of Medallion Court; grand theft
 - 3:53 p.m. in the 3700 block of Hopyard Road; grand theft
 - 5:41 p.m. in the 8300 block of Moller Ranch Drive
- Vandalism:
 - 8:04 a.m. at the intersection of Lemonwood Way and Ashwood Drive
- Burglary:
 - 10:14 a.m. in the 800 block of Main Street
- Drug violations:
 - 12:11 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; non-narcotic controlled substance possession, under the influence of a controlled substance
- Fighting in public:
 - 3:36 p.m. at the intersection of Main Street and Del Valle Parkway

April 8

- Theft:
 - 12:54 p.m. in the 4200 block of

- Diavila Ave
 - 6:19 p.m. in the 4300 block of Second Street; petty theft
 - 7:52 p.m. in the 1500 block of Oxsen Street; identity theft

• Vandalism:

- 6:37 a.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive; worth less than \$400

April 9

- Theft:
 - 7:36 a.m. in the 5600 block of Springhouse Drive; stolen vehicle
 - 9:05 a.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; grand theft
 - 11:34 a.m. in the 800 block of Grey Fox Circle; grand theft
 - 1:29 p.m. in the 3400 block of Cornerstone Court; identity theft
 - 2:23 p.m. in the 6300 block of Hansen Drive; grand theft
 - 7:14 p.m. in the 2200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- Vandalism:
 - 4:01 p.m. in the 2100 block of Arroyo Court; worth less than \$400
- Public drunkenness:
 - 12:55 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road
- Dogs at large:

- 7:44 p.m. in the 80 block of Silver Oaks Lane

April 10

- Theft:
 - 5:17 a.m. in the 6200 block of Guyson Court; grand theft
 - 6:49 a.m. in the 4000 block of Fairlands Drive; stolen vehicle
 - 11:11 a.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive; embezzlement
 - 2:21 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
 - 2:46 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; robbery
- Vandalism:
 - 8:44 a.m. at the intersection of Pimlico Drive and Belmont Way
 - 7:09 p.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue; worth less than \$400
- Burglary:
 - 7:00 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- DUI:
 - 2:08 a.m. in the 1400 block of Hopyard Road
- Elderly abuse:
 - 6:58 a.m. in the 5300 block of Elmridge Court
- Truant:
 - 10:13 a.m. at the intersection of Vine Street and Birch Creek Drive

Obituaries

Vera Nancy Juliano

Vera Nancy Juliano died April 6 at the age of 95.

Mrs. Juliano was born Vera Nancy Ireland Nov. 19, 1912 in Egg Harbor, N.J. She lived many years in Atlantic City where she married Thomas Juliano and raised her family.

She worked for many years in the hotel industry in Atlantic City,

Miami Beach and Los Angeles and had resided in Pleasanton for several years. She was a prolific writer of short stories and poems from the time she won a writing award at age 12. Her grandchildren will forever have humorous memories of their adventures with her. This past summer, she had a reunion with all her great grandchildren.

She is survived by her three daughters; Geraldine Gillico, Paula Dawson and husband William, and Margaret Haase and husband Bruce; her grandchildren, Dominic Gillico, David

Gillico and Hope Smith, Jon Falk and Margaret Slater, and Sarah Barnes and Daniel Haase; and her great grandchildren, Heather, Holly, and Hayley Smith, Juliana and Ryan Slater, and Hannah and Jack Barnes. She is also survived by her sister, Claire Pittman in New Jersey.; nephew, Leon Lutz of Chicago; and several nieces and nephews in New Jersey. She was preceded in death by her husband and nine brothers and sisters.

Mrs. Juliano was laid to rest April 11 at Roselawn Cemetery in Livermore.

WHO KILLED TINA FAELZ?

After 24 years, teen's family and Pleasanton police still seeking answers to heinous crime

NEARLY A QUARTER OF A CENTURY AFTER

by Janet Pelletier

TINA FAELZ'S LIFELESS BODY WAS FOUND IN A DRAINAGE CULVERT ON A PATHWAY BEHIND FOOTHILL HIGH SCHOOL, HER FAMILY AND PLEASANTON POLICE ARE STILL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHO COULD HAVE KILLED THE HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN.

"IT WAS A REAL BIG DEAL AT THE TIME," SAID LT. DARRIN DAVIS OF THE PLEASANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT.



Faelz, 14, was last seen alive at 2:35 p.m. April 5, 1984. The Foothill freshman often took the bus home from school but had recently started walking home to avoid being teased by other students riding the bus, according to her mother, Shirley Orosco. Faelz took a back route from the high school, walking on a path that connected through Aster Court to Lemonwood Way and through the Interstate 680 underpass to her Valley Trails home. But that day, she only made it part way when police believe she was approached and subsequently stabbed to death.

Fellow high school students who had also walked the same path found Faelz's body at about 3:25 p.m., only 10 to 15 minutes after investigators believe she was killed, Davis said. Police also received a call from a trucker who reported seeing her body from the freeway just minutes prior to the students who discovered her.

The route was a popular one shared by students who lived in the Valley Trails neighborhood. The shortcut was often discouraged by high school administration. The tunnel and the culvert are gone now, built over by homes.

A reward was offered shortly after the news hit, initially starting at \$1,000 and eventually climbing to \$25,000 after donations from the City Council (\$5,000), Faelz's stepfather (\$5,000), Dublin-San Ramon Services District (\$5,000), Police Chief Bill Eastman (\$1,000), Pleasanton Rotary Club (\$1,000), Alameda County Supervisor Don Excell (\$1,000) and other various donors from the community, according to news articles published at the time.

"Police got a large volume of tips, but most of them didn't pan out," Davis said. "Students had claimed they were the ones who did it, but it was Friday night party talk."

Hair samples and blood were collected at the bloody crime scene, which Davis described as huge, but there were no fingerprints to collect. While investigators gathered cigarette butts and old knives, none of them could be linked to the crime.

"The thing that stands out the most is it's as cold a crime scene as I've ever seen so far as evidence was concerned," said Lt. Davis, who was Pleasanton's chief of police in 2000. "There was no place to leave anything, just no physical evidence really—just Tina. It happened down in a ravine, out of sight of surrounding areas. I'd always thought somebody laid in wait, but who is the person? Eastman said he remembers the scene in the community."

"It was sobering to the community to see what happened to such a young girl and that it happened to Foothill High and in broad daylight," said Davis. "We had just about everybody on it the first day, so and followed what leads we had."

Foothill held a memorial service a few days later and planted a lilac tree in the student parking lot. A stone placard at the base of the tree has her name inscribed and was made to her in the school's yearbook.

Orosco said she is hoping any public information about her daughter's murder will lead to solving the case. "The closure she and her son Drew Faelz have longed for for over two decades."

"She was a real mature girl, very pretty inside," she said. "We had a good relationship. She had some money in a trust fund, she wanted to go to college and get a job as a secretary."

After marrying her husband in 2000, Orosco, who still lives in her Valley Trails home, said the only thing she has left in the case is "incomplete."

There was something about the way Tina Faelz was killed that Orosco said she was sure played a role in her murder, but she is not sure exactly what or how.

The quiet, shy freshman came to school at 4:30 p.m. a day earlier, well before the murder. When Orosco asked her where Tina was, Faelz said she was at the mall.

"But usually she wouldn't have done that, she would have come right home," Orosco said.

Faelz had attended her first karate class, which Orosco said she believed she went just for fun, not for self defense.

While Faelz began regularly walking through the shortcut, Orosco said she did sometimes drive her to and from school when she could. The day she was killed, her daughter had detention right after classes ended at 2:30 p.m., but Faelz didn't show up.

"On the way to school that day, I said 'do you want to change schools?' and she said, 'no, I'll wait until the end of this year,'" Orosco said.

Over the years, there have been some false hopes. Faelz was one of four women in her age range who had been murdered within a fairly close timeframe. Police investigated 35-year-old Michael Ihde, who was later charged with one of the women's murders—that of Lisa Monzo, 18, of San Lorenzo in 1994. Ihde, who was already serving a life sentence in Washington state for the death of another woman, was convicted and sentenced to death three years later. He has not been eliminated as a "person of interest" but police have little to link him to the crime.

The case was opened again in 1998 after James Anthony Daveggio was charged with the kidnapping, assault and murder of a 22-year-old Pleasanton woman whose body was found in the Sierras, but DNA evidence ruled him out as Faelz's killer.

Because the case is unsolved, police are cautious on how much information they give. Releasing too many details can hamper interrogations or encourage copycats to come forward claiming responsibility.

Davis said currently there are four or five "persons of interest," which he said he wouldn't definitively call suspects. All are men who were school age to young adults at the time Faelz was murdered. Some are in prison, have been released and some live out of the state.

Over the years, police have filed hundreds of pages of reports that fill five binders on the case, No.84-1496. There are 14 pages that list the names of people police have interviewed. Davis estimated that 350 people were questioned after the incident and another 250 people have been interviewed since then, with some of the people being re-interviewed.

"These people would be teachers, students, acquaintances, visitors to Faelz's home and their acquaintances," Davis said, anyone who ever had anything to do with her.

What made investigating the incident so difficult was that the crime scene was remote, there were no witnesses and the stabbing occurred later in the day when fewer students were heading home from school, Eastman said.

While not discounting it, Eastman said there wasn't enough evidence to lead toward a preliminary conclusion that the motive was robbery or revenge. Faelz was fully clothed when she was found and police don't believe there was a sexual assault. No money was stolen from her purse.

"It was extraordinarily frustrating and while I was (police chief), I think we reopened the case four times to get fresh looks at it and never got past what we had in the first month of the investigation," Eastman said. "Tina was a pretty quiet kid, too. She didn't have a cadre of friends, where she might have said something that would indicate some problem with somebody."

Eastman, who had two daughters attending Foothill at time of the murder, said while in a professional sense, he didn't like to think he took it personally, he did.

"But, had I not had any children there, I (still) would have felt personally committed about it because of the revolting nature of the case and the despicable being who did it," he said.

Murders are rare in Pleasanton, and that's why the police department doesn't have a separate homicide unit that bigger cities with more crime have.

Davis, a veteran with the police force, began working on the case about a year after the investigation began. Since then, he, like Eastman, has seen the case reopened a handful of times. In

2003, he traveled to the East Coast to follow one particular lead, but came back empty-handed.

"The trips were definitely worthwhile and it's not that you're ruling (anyone) out, but it's not enough to go on," he said.

Just last year, DNA tests were conducted but no news has come out of that.

Although it's an unsolved homicide, Davis said these cases are never really closed; they just become inactive at times when the investigation hits a standstill.

Anyone who has tips is asked to call the Pleasanton Police Department at 931-5100. ■



Janet Pelletier

A cement marker with Tina Faelz's name was installed along with the planting of a lilac tree in her honor on Foothill High School's campus. The Foothill freshman was last seen as classes ended. Her body was later discovered in a drainage culvert on a popular route students used to take home from school.

Unsolved mysteries in Pleasanton

Including the Tina Faelz case, there are three unsolved murders in Pleasanton dating back to 1977.

Alfred "Fat Freddy" Gutierrez

Found dead with "major head injuries" after an apparent struggle in his Santa Rita Road apartment in 1977. Known as "Fat Freddy," 40, and he associated with a biker gang.

Tina Faelz

Found stabbed to death April 5, 1984 in a ditch off of Foothill Road.

"Baby Doe"

A baby was dumped in a garbage bin and discovered at Pleasanton Garbage Service's headquarters on Busch Road in 1995. Police tested DNA on the baby but couldn't locate any suspects.

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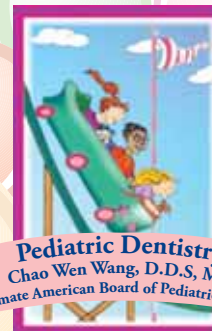
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WEEKLY

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Opinion

Editorial

Curbing speeders in Happy Valley

It's taken a few years, but Happy Valley residents have finally gotten some relief from high-speed traffic that used to scare off evening walkers along the once rural Alisal Street, the only thoroughfare through their unincorporated county neighborhood. Pleasanton's traffic engineer Mike Tassano has come to the rescue with seven speed bumps strategically placed along Alisal and Sycamore Road, cutting speeds that motorists can safely travel without sharp—and possibly damaging—jolts to their vehicles from close to 40 mph to under 30. Many are golfers headed to the city's Callippe Preserve Golf Course who have more than tripled traffic on Alisal. Tassano says he's had no complaints and so far golfers haven't switched their route to Happy Valley Road, which has no speed bumps, although it can legally be used only going to the course since left turns aren't allowed coming out of Callippe.

Few drivers like speed bumps which often slow down drivers much below the state-imposed 25 mph limit on residential streets. On Crellin Drive, where they were installed a year ago, traffic is noticeably slower, almost dangerously slow as some drivers screech to a near stop at each of the five speed bumps on that street. Tassano has put "softer" bumps on Alisal to avoid the Crellin problem, using the same all-asphalt design that Livermore has used for a number of years with much success. Few motorists like speed bumps, but on county roads such as Alisal, where police patrols by Alameda County sheriff's deputies and Pleasanton police are sparse, they are helping to control high speeds at little cost to law enforcement and with much-reduced risks to both drivers and those who live in Happy Valley and often walk along Alisal, where there are no sidewalks.

Tassano says that the speed bumps could be taken out if the neighborhood agrees after a long-proposed golf course bypass road is built. The bypass has been on the planning books since 1989 and, as configured today, would make Sycamore Creek Way the new and only route to the golf course. Much depends on that road ever being built, including the city's approval of a new homes east of Alisal. A project planned by Greenbriar Homes, details over how many homes will be allowed and how much the developer will be asked to contribute to the new roadway have yet to be considered. Once the housing market moves out of the doldrums, these plans might surface. Tassano and the city of Pleasanton have done what safety and residents demanded by curbing speeders traveling through Happy Valley.

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. 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.

Talking Points

by Gina Channell-Allen

Coverage is determined by more than preference

I am out in the community a lot and enjoy conversing with readers and getting feedback, both positive and negative. At least daily someone says, "You always write about (insert name of school, sport, group, project, etc. here), but you never write about (insert the speaker's school, sport, group, project, etc. here)."

It is refreshing to hear from people who are passionate about a school, sport, group or project. Most are on a mission to make the world a better place. The problem is that not everyone is as passionate about the same school, sport, group or project. And that really ticks some folks off because it is impossible for a newspaper to run everything that everyone wants in print because we have a finite amount of space in every edition.

Most people who have had no contact with the newspaper industry don't realize the size of the paper is determined by the amount of advertising. The news stories go around the advertisements, not the other way around. Advertising and, in some cases, subscriptions, pay for the content, printing and distribution of the newspaper.

We determine what will run in the edition based on its news value, such as timeliness, relevance to the

community, how many people it will affect, the prominence of the people involved, uniqueness and the extent of conflict in the issue.

Because the dissemination of news—print, broadcast and electronic media—is dependent upon the revenue from advertising, or in some cases subscriptions, there have been debates on whether or not media should be not-for-profit. Let's consider the ramifications:

First, as noted previously, people expect to be compensated for their work. While journalists do not go into the business to become wealthy, they do rightfully expect to be able to provide for themselves and their families. If they cannot afford this, they move to another career, and take their training and experience with them. Then we are left with non-local content that can be reproduced and rebroadcast ad nauseum (celebrity news, for example) or with content that is produced by people not properly trained or lack experience. To use a Midwestern term, who's watching



the store? When the experienced, trained media "watchdogs" have left the business to write press releases for multi-million dollar companies because the pay is better, who is maintaining the Fourth Estate?

Second, newsprint, ink, airtime, equipment, etc., all cost money. Most not-for-profits receive revenue to conduct business through donations and grants. Because they are dependent on these funds, the organizations are beholden to those donors and grant providers. There is nothing wrong with showing appreciation to the individuals and groups that are funding much-needed services to the community. However, would it impair the ability of a news organization to provide unbiased information if it was beholden to donors? What if the government started offering grants to news organizations?

The Associated Press (AP), a wire service that has been providing content to most of the United States' media outlets since 1848, is a not-for-profit cooperative of its member publishers and broadcasters. The fees AP charges support a worldwide network of 3,708 staff members, with about 2,500 of those members being journalists. National Public Radio (NPR) is

similar in that it is a not-for-profit. It is not a radio station, but produces and distributes programming to radio stations and receives fees from the stations as well as accepts donations.

In other words, not-for-profits such as AP and NPR rely on the for-profit media outlets to maintain financial viability. What would happen if all media outlets were not-for-profit? Would they be, to use another Midwestern term, fishing from the same pond? More importantly, what would happen if, or more accurately when, the pond becomes polluted?

I bring this to your attention because there is more that goes into coverage of a school, sport, group, project, etc., than the preferences of the editorial staff. And I welcome your thoughts about a not-for-profit media. It has been a topic of debate in the industry and it is an issue that affects news providers and consumers alike.

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.

Pleasanton Real Estate News



by Gerarda Stocking

THE UPSIDE-DOWN HOME

It happened in the '90s. As we've all seen, it can happen again. Home values, usually temporarily, can dip below the balance of the mortgage or mortgages on the home. A home whose estimated value has fallen to \$680,000 may conceivably be securing \$690,000 in mortgages.

Should the homeowners run screaming into the night? Hardly! The first and perhaps most important thing to realize is that lenders almost invariably lose a lot of money if they foreclose. Foreclosure, therefore, is a last ditch effort to salvage at least a portion of the money owed to the lender.

Therefore, lenders are usually extremely ready to work out modified repayment programs with borrowers wherever necessary. In most cases, though it's just a matter of continuing to make the regular monthly payments, and over a relatively short period of time, the market value of the home will rise above the loan balance once again...and continue to rise.

It is particularly good, though, to check in with your lender if you face a time period in which it might be extremely difficult to meet your monthly payment obligation. Indeed, you should speak with your lender yourself before speaking to any services that promise to resolve these matters for you. If you do the communicating, you are most likely to end up with an agreement that works for you. Stocking Realty's sister company The Moneytree has a program to help people negotiate with lenders on upside down loans. For help with that call Gerarda Stocking at (925) 433-9871 or for any real estate needs call Gerarda at (925) 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

Gerarda Stocking is the Owner/Broker of Stocking Realty.

Letters

How endangered are other specific plans?

Dear Editor,

Contrary to your article describing the large house in the Vineyard Corridor ("13,000-square-foot home given OK," Newsfront, April 4, page 5), staff did not consistently recommend approval of the PUD. In fact, when the plans were first submitted in 2003, staff forcefully explained that the project wasn't consistent with the specific plan according to several elements. Staff further disagreed with

the project in June 2005 when it was scheduled to come before the Planning Commission. Staff's disapproval began to mellow, however, coinciding with the addition of the paid consultant, Tom Pico. Subsequent staff reports became supportive of the PUD.

There has been an attempt to portray this house as smaller than it is. Since the habitable basement with two kitchens and 1,000 square feet of the 1,785-square-foot garage have to be considered, the resulting house, excluding accessory structures, comes to 14,285 square feet, the largest house in the Vineyard Corridor specific plan area. Of course, a house of this magnitude couldn't

fit in its proscribed area delineated by the specific plan. Moving the lot now requires chopping off 40 feet of hilltop to accommodate the house as well as removing 73 trees, including many heritage ones, to permit the lengthy access road and the flat pad grading. These accommodations aren't consistent with the intent of the specific plan.

It is disturbing that a nine-year-old specific plan has been overturned. How endangered are other specific plans, future specific plans and design guidelines?

*Mary L. Roberts
(former member and chair of the Pleasanton Planning Commission)*

Thank you for church article

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for your wonderful cover article on our church move, ("Pleasanton Presbyterians on the move," Cover Story, March 28, page 16).

I sincerely appreciate the amount of personal time and attention you gave the article—it was very meaningful and I heard a number of positive comments from members of our congregation on Sunday.

*Mike Barris Pastor,
Pleasanton Presbyterian Church*

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Calendar

Primavera Dinner Dance Eat food from Tony Martinelli and dance to the music of JB Smooth Sounds at 6 p.m. May 3 at St. Michael's Parish Hall, 372 Maple St., Livermore. The fundraiser benefits Tri-Valley Scholarship program and other charities. Reserve a spot by April 28 by calling Helen, 462-3798 or Rose, 846-4227.

Spring Fashion Show The season's new looks will be featured at a fashion show April 24 at Nordstrom's in Stoneridge Shopping Center. The event will raise money for Livermore Valley Business and Professional Women, which provides scholarships. Dinner and the show is \$25. To make reservations, call Mona at 829-3505 by April 18.

Style with Substance Gary Gemma, owner of Gary Patrick Salon, hosts the second bi-annual fundraising event called "Style with Substance: A Fusion of Fashion, Music and Giving" from 7 to 10 p.m. April 27 at Ruby Skye Night Club, 420 Mason St., San Francisco. All proceeds will benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Tickets are \$50 for general admission and \$100 for VIP, which includes one cocktail and a gift bag. Visit www.rubyskye.com or call 462-2375.

The Magic of Music 4th Annual Fundraising Gala A Celebration of the Roaring '20s will be held at 6 p.m. April 26 at The Hilton Pleasanton at the Club, 7050 Johnson Drive. It includes an elegant evening with champagne, speakeasy beer, a three-course seated dinner, live and silent auctions and dancing. This event is only major fundraiser of the year for Amador Valley High Schools concert bands, jazz bands, winter percussion and colorguard. Tickets are \$75. Call 426-5662 or visit www.amadorband.org.

Health

Pilates for Osteoporosis A lecture and Pilates movement class addresses the diagnosis and screening process for osteoporosis will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. April 18 at Pilates on Spring, 273 Spring St. Wear comfortable clothes. Donations are accepted. Call Colleen, 461-3008, or visit pilatesonspring.com.

Holiday

Community Second Seder The Tri-Valley Cultural Jews' Passover seder

celebrates the heroism and courage of the human participants in the original freedom struggle of the Jewish people and in all struggles for freedom throughout the world. Secular Progressive Haggadah. Potluck dinner. It will be held at 5 p.m. April 20 at the Bothwell Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. Tickets are \$10 for ages 13 and over. Call 485-1049 or visit EastBayCulturalJews.org.

Lectures/ Workshops

Writing Workshop at Towne Center Books At 4 p.m. April 24, author Stefan Merrill Block will conduct a free workshop for writers at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. This workshop will focus on finding the voice in fiction. Stefan is the author of the novel "Story of Forgetting." Reservations are requested. Call 846-8826.

Live Music

Community Band Plays at Farmer's Market Pleasanton Community Concert Band will entertain shoppers at the Pleasanton Farmers Market from 9:15 a.m. to noon on April 26. The market is on West Angela Street, between Main and First streets. The Band will be located in the parking lot of the Panda Restaurant.

Miscellaneous

Marriott Food Drive From April 21 to 25 Marriott Hotels in Pleasanton will hold a food drive: Pleasanton Courtyard by Marriott, 5059 Hopyard Road; Residence Inn by Marriott, 11920 Dublin Canyon Road; and Pleasanton Marriott, 11950 Dublin Canyon Road. Call 353-5845 or 244-1414.

On Stage

"Iron Curtain," a Musical Comedy at LPC Las Positas College, 3033 Collier Canyon Road, Livermore, presents "Iron Curtain," a new musical comedy about a 1950s New

York song writing team that gets kidnapped to Moscow to help the Soviets create a propagandistic musical. Shows are at 8 p.m. April 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 and 19; and at 2 p.m. April 13 and 20. Call 424-1166 or email kross@laspositascollege.edu. Tickets are \$15, \$12 for seniors and \$10 for students.

Seniors

Napa Sonoma Wine Tour The Pleasanton Senior Center VIP Club is sponsoring a wine tour trip to Napa and Sonoma April 23. The cost is \$65 for members or \$67. Call 931-5370 for more information and to reserve a space.

Spiritual

What's Your Name Names can bind us, or they can free us to realize our true nature. Topic of the Sunday morning message by Rev. Mary Lacalle, special speaker at Tri-Valley Unity Church, at 10 a.m. April 20 at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Call 829-2733. All are welcome.

Sports

Tigers Baseball Open Clinic An open clinic for high school players ages 15-18 years of age will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. April 20 at Bill Payne Sports Park for all players interested in participating on either our 16U or 18U summer teams. This event is free to all players. Players selected will pay an additional fee which includes gear package and nine tournaments through Labor Day. Visit www.rteamsite.com/baseball/tigers-baseball for the registration form.

Tri-Valley Cheer Sign-ups Girls between the ages of 10-15 years old as of July 31 are invited to sign up for Tri-Valley Cheer. Registration fee is \$75. Upcoming sign-ups for the 2008 season are from 6 to 7:30 p.m. April 3, 10, 16 and 24, and May 1, 8 and 15 at Frederiksen Elementary School's multipurpose room, 7243 Tamarack Drive, Dublin. Season begins in June and ends in March. Call 216-6742.



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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 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 for menus and private party and catering details.

Zorn's Restaurant

3015 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 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

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

Barbecue

Red Smoke Grill

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

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

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

California Cuisine

Stacey's Cafe

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

Catering

Fontina's Catering

349 Main St., Downtown Pleasanton, 462-9299. Fontina Ristorante's award-winning menu can now be delivered

to your home or office. Our lunch and dinner specialties feature homemade soups and pastas, premium seafood and meats, and a vegetarian menu. For parties of 10 or more, we'll include free dessert or 10 percent off your total bill (excluding tax).

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831-4888. Offering affordable and elegant catering, Girasole Grill/Pampered Palate provides quality food and generous portions at a fair price. Services include: decorated buffets with hors d'oeuvres and carving stations; sit down meal service; †strictly hors d'oeuvres, both buffet and server passed; and a variety of beverage packages with no corkage fees. Visit www.ppceastbay.com.

Chinese

Chinese Szechuan

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

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Continental

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

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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.

Silver Palate Restaurant & Market

680 Main St Downtown Pleasanton, 417-5900 The ambiance of this restaurant evokes the light-filled expanse of a European marketplace, while the outdoor patio captures the best in al fresco dining. Choose from a wide selection of flavorful entrees and side accompaniments ... Just \$14.95 or less everyday! We also feature a

special dinner menu. Kids eat FREE with each paying adult. Now open for breakfast! Country Brunch Buffet every Sunday. Open seven days a week.

Japanese

Sato Japanese Cuisine

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

Mexican

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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.

Pizza

Gay Nineties Pizza Co.

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

Steakhouse

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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

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133 Music Lessons

Piano Lessons

Piano Lessons

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135 Group Activities

Scrapbooking Group in Dublin are

140 Lost & Found

Lost/For Sale



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210 Garage/Estate Sales

Pleasanton, 2310 Meadowlark Dr., Sat. April 19th 8am-2pm
Huge Multi-Family Garage Sale



Pleasanton, Parkside Neighborhood, April 19, 8-2
30 GARAGE SALES in the Parkside Neighborhood!! Located on the corner of Hopyard Road and Parkside Drive in Pleasanton. Follow signs. Maps will be provided at each garage sale. Questions? Call Natalie at 925-847-2256 or Ingrid at 925-847-2230.

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230 Freebies

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235 Wanted to Buy

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240 Furnishings/Household items

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245 Miscellaneous

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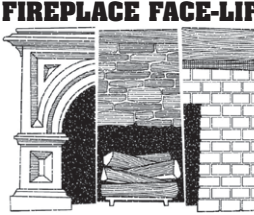
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Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA - \$600/Month
Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA - \$600/Month

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Danville, 3 BR/2 BA - \$775000
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Dublin, 3 BR/2 BA - \$589,999
Dublin, 3 BR/3.5 BA - \$749000

Dublin, 3 BR/3.5 BA - \$749000

Livermore, 3 BR/2 BA - \$439,950

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Pleasanton, 3 BR/2 BA - \$820,000.

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