

Extra! Extra!

Look for the city-produced newsletter included in this issue

Vol. IX, Number 22 • June 27, 2008

www.PleasantonWeekly.com

Thieves go green

Solar panels stolen from Hearst school

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PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Red, White and Blues

Local band to serenade street party

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Troubled Market

Housing sales, prices down, but Pleasanton better than most

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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Scooped on a story by a headhunter

It's no secret around town that Jim Wolfe, the city's director of Parks and Community Services for the last 10 years, plans to retire at the end of the year—on Dec. 30, to be exact. But what was a surprise is the "Google Alert" that an executive search firm was hired by the city to look for his replacement. That information made it to this newspaper before even Wolfe had seen it and soon everyone—including a few current park district managers when they saw the \$153,456 starting salary—was no doubt eyeballing the computer screen and Blackberry phones for qualification details. There's probably a lesson here for employers who want to start searching for executive replacements six months before they are scheduled to leave, as well as for search firms that might want to reconsider their confidentiality agreements.

For Wolfe, the early disclosure by Peckham & McKenney Executive Search and Consulting out of Sacramento simply caused him to move an already-planned staff meeting up a few weeks to talk about his departure. He also wants to make sure that major projects still under way on his watch, including the three new lighted baseball fields on the Bernal property and the restoration of the Alviso Adobe and its community park on Foothill Road, stay on track. Wolfe will be here for the Alviso dedication in September, but not for the baseball fields, which won't be ready for play before mid-2009 at the earliest, or the new community park and proposed ice rink on Staples Ranch that Wolfe and his department are also advancing.

Pleasanton has 40 parks, more than any city its size and as many as much larger cities can claim. The operating budget for Parks and Community Services is now \$20 million, also sizeable for a city with a population just under 70,000. Dublin, with 41,000 people, has an operating budget for parks and community services of \$6.5 million. The Livermore Area Recreation and Parks District, a separate taxing agency, serves a population of 120,000 with a budget of \$16.7 million. Concord, with 128,000

people, operates the same services for \$13 million, with Stockton, a city of 285,000—more than four times larger than Pleasanton—appropriating \$29 million.

Besides parks, Wolfe's department also funds and supports numerous facilities and much in between. The newly-placed parkway median strip on Vineyard Avenue is part of Parks and Community Services, as are the Senior Center, Veterans Memorial Building, tennis park complex at Valley and Hopyard and Callippe Preserve Golf Course. He also has developed a close working relationship with the school district and East Bay Regional Parks District, sharing facilities and parkland. These include joint-use school gymnasiums and the BMX field at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park.

As vital as services, facilities, parks and maintenance are for the department, it's Wolfe's management style that has won him kudos. He leaves direct management to managers and supervisors, often standing at the back of the room as they conduct public meetings to hold one-on-one conversations with leaders of neighborhood groups who have points to make quietly. He also schedules these kinds of meetings on weeknights and often on Saturdays to make sure out-of-town commuters have a chance to participate. He's at every City Council meeting, even if there's nothing on the agenda that involves his group just in case someone from the public has an issue to raise that he can handle. He also is the staff manager of the Parks and Recreation Commission, a volunteer group that is appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the council. Outside of City Manager Nelson Fialho, Wolfe is probably the best-recognized member of the city staff.

Wolfe and his wife Maureen sold their home off Calle Altamira last week—in just four days—and are now making plans to move into a new residence in Arroyo Grande, a small community on the Central Coast just south of Pismo Beach. There'll be office parties and public tributes to Wolfe before he leaves, but I wanted to beat Peckham & McKenney to that announcement first. ■

Pleasanton Real Estate News



by Gerarda Stocking

DEFINING A BUYER'S MARKET

Attorney and columnist Robert Bruss believes that a buyer's market, generally, can be defined as a "normal" market. Over the forty years that he's been a real estate investor, he insists, only about 25% of the time was the market characterized by multiple offers and rapid sales and skyrocketing appreciation rates. It's been normal, he claims, to see homes on the market for two to six months and to see the annual appreciation rate hovering slightly below 5%—or, when higher, generally a bit above the rate of appreciation.

But it's crucial to add that what is happening in one market may differ from what is happening only a zip code away. You should check each market, rather than generalizing, when deciding on the price you can afford to pay today.

The "Bruss Rule" looks like this. First, check how long it has been taking on average for the houses that come to market in a particular area to sell. If it's above 60 days, it can be characterized as buyer's market in that area. Second, check the number of homes listed for sale in the area as against the number of sales that closed, and you will gain an idea of the number of months' worth of inventory coming to market. If it's more than six months, Bruss argues the area is experiencing a buyer's market—which is a "normal" market with its own strategies and opportunities. For help call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

Gerarda Stocking is the Owner/Broker of Stocking Realty.

Check out Town Square

An online forum to **Discuss Community Issues**
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About the Cover

Even with housing prices and sales down, Pleasanton has largely escaped the subprime mortgage problems much of the East Bay and even the country are facing. Real estate experts give their market projections and provide advice on how to prepare your home for sale. Photo by Jeb Bing. Cover design by Lili Cao.

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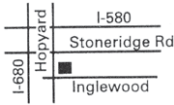
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Streetwise

Q: What is your favorite thing about summer?

Asked Downtown



Sabrina Stafford

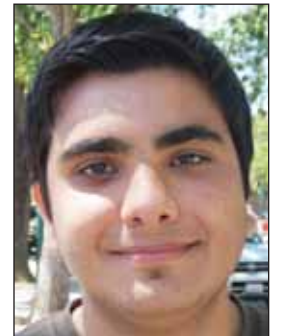
Fourth-Grader

I like not having any homework, sleeping in and having the whole day ahead of me to do whatever I want to.

Abdullah Faisal

Student

My favorite thing about summer is being able to go to the park and watch more Giants baseball. I also enjoy spending free time with my three younger sisters.



Dave McPherson

Retail Manager

We lived here 10 years ago and visit every year. We love the weather, visiting with friends, seeing local music.



Regina Louis

Writer

I love the heat. I love lounging. I think we are hard wired to lounge, dress in light clothes on balmy evenings, eat outdoors and spend time with someone we enjoy. I love the romanticism that heat seems to create.



Shawn Ram

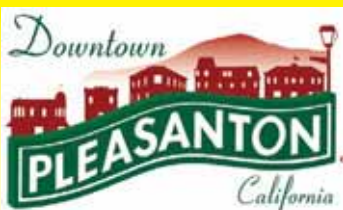
Broker

I enjoy playing sports outside like basketball and golf. The warm summer weather enables us to spend time at the park with the kids.



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

Compiled by Cybele Ryan



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Newsfront

News Digest

Vote in Readers Choice by Sunday

Let your voice be heard by voting for your favorite things in the Pleasanton Weekly's Readers Choice. Ballots are online only, www.pleasantonweekly.com, and are limited to one per person. The deadline to vote is midnight Sunday. Winners will be revealed in the July 25 issue.

Free legal advice given at the library

Receive a free 20-minute consultation with a member of the Alameda County Bar Association at the third Tuesday of each month at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Registration is done at 5:30 p.m., with the lawyer visit at 6 p.m., and are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Wente concert supports human rights

Wente Family Estates presents a charity concert by the multi-genre The Front Porch from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday at Wente's Estate Winery barrel room, 5565 Tesla Road. The concert's theme is "The Making of a Landmark Movie," as all proceeds will go to "Tapestries of Hope," a human rights movie partnered with the United Nations. Ticket donations range from \$25 to \$500 and can be purchased online at shop.rawpp.com and at the door. Donations for the project can also be made by visiting the movie's website <http://savehope.blogspot.com>.

Knitting for breast cancer cures

Pleasanton-based knitting group, The Thirsty Girls, will celebrate World Wide Knit in Public Day Saturday morning at the farmers market on West Angela Street. The group will be knitting with a purpose, as they hope to raise \$15,000 to help fight breast cancer. In September, the group will be participating as Team Unraveled in a three-day, 60-mile walk benefiting the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

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

Hosterman opposes Arctic oil drilling, action against Iran at mayors' conference

Mayor, city win award for climate protection efforts at Miami event

by Jeb Bing

The 76th annual meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors wrapped up Tuesday at the Miami InterContinental Hotel where Mayor Jennifer Hosterman joined others in endorsing or signing a number of resolutions ranging from opposing U.S. intervention in Iran to supporting the elimination of all nuclear weapons by the year 2020.

The conference featured keynote addresses Sunday by Sen.

Barack Obama, the presumptive Democratic nominee for president, and Monday by former President Bill Clinton. John McCain, the presumptive Republican candidate for president, met with leaders of the mayors' conference but did not address the general session.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of the 1,139 cities in the country that have populations of 30,000 or more.

Hosterman, who has been active

in the conference and its subcommittees, also signed on to the conference's 10-point plan calling for stronger cities, strong families and a stronger America. Housing problems, including foreclosures, rising fuel prices, the economic slowdown and federal and state funding cutbacks on key public programs affecting cities also brought support from Hosterman who called the conference "a great opportunity to come together and work together



Jay Flashbarth

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman

(continued on page 8)

Summer school in session

For hundreds of Pleasanton students, summer doesn't mean school's out

by Elyssa Thome

For most students, summer means freedom from classrooms and homework, but not for those enrolled in summer school. The Pleasanton Unified School District began this year's summer school program June 18.

About 800 students filled classrooms in Hart Middle School for the high school program. The elementary summer school program for first- through eighth-graders is being held in various other sites.

According to Matt Campbell, this year's principal of summer high school, the safe and secure environment of summer school is an asset to the students, their parents and the whole community.

"I think that it really adds to the overall community here in Pleasanton," Campbell said. "The students are well supported and given a good teaching staff to help them be successful."

According to Campbell, the high school program is ideal for several types of students. The largest group consists of students who have failed classes and use the summer to make up those credits. Other students did not earn desired grades in college-required classes and retake them to improve their marks.

For seniors who have failed senior graduation requirements, summer school provides an opportunity to get those units back and graduate. A ceremony will be held the last day of summer school, July 25, for those students.

Some students enroll in summer school simply for review and enrichment. Even eighth-graders entering high school can earn high school credit during the summer, gaining an advantage.

Additionally, a new class started last year called "College Boot Camp." Unlike the other classes, students pay to enroll in this course. Geared toward incoming seniors, the course aims to help students prepare for college with workshops on writing application essays, interviewing and other important steps on the road to college.

The elementary program, which began Monday, offers academic support for students that have struggled during the year. Additionally, the elementary level summer school features enrichment programs such as computer science and drama and arts camps.

(continued on page 8)



Emily Atwood

School officials meet with solar representatives April 16, shortly after the solar panel installation was completed.

Solar panels stolen from school's roof

Police investigation continues; estimated loss totals \$31,200

by Emily Atwood

Thirty-nine solar panels valued at \$31,200 were stolen from Hearst Elementary School over the weekend, just a few months after being installed, according to the school district.

Myla Grasso, public information officer for the district, said the school's principal was at the school midday Saturday and noticed panels were on the ground.

The panels were taken sometime between 3 p.m. Friday and 9:45 a.m. Saturday, police said. Det. Dana Stout added that there were no witnesses or phone calls to police about suspicious behavior during that time, nor were there

surveillance cameras running.

While the investigation continues, Stout said it was definitely more than one person who used a ladder and basic tools to remove the panels, which weigh about 25 to 30 pounds each and were affixed by brackets. Tools were left on the scene and they were brushed for fingerprints, but Stout couldn't confirm the results of the test.

While the panels technically belong to Honeywell, an industrial supplies manufacturer, Grasso said it will be an insurance claim for the district.

"We appreciate the community keeping eyes and ears open," Grasso said, adding that they don't know of any leads as to who could be responsible. ■

Reading contests set sail

Pirate-themed programs keep kids and adults reading this summer at library

By Elyssa Thome

This summer, thousands of children of all ages will earn prizes by reading as they participate in Pleasanton Public Library's summer reading program. This year's pirate-themed adventure offers a separate contest for adults for the first time.

Both the children and adult programs began June 14, but people can sign up all summer long to earn prizes for reading. The children's game, this year entitled the "High Seas Bookaneer Adventure," has been very popular in the past, with 4,100 participants last summer. This is the first year for the separate adult program, which is called "Treasure Reading" in keeping with the pirate theme.

According to Doreen Irby, library assistant in adult services, the adult program was created in order to make more people aware of the events the library offers, as well as to encourage reading.

"We are always thinking of ways of attracting people to the library to see what's going on here," Irby said. "We had no idea how people

would respond but so far it's been really positive."

Unlike the children's program, which offers prizes as you go, library card holders age 18 and older work toward a raffle that takes place at the end. Participants must complete five library related activities and turn in their Treasure Reading Log by July 27 to be entered to win a \$25 Pleasanton Downtown Association gift card. The Pleasanton Downtown Association has helped sponsor the program by donating the cards.

Library-related activities include reading and reviewing books, magazines or audio books, attending a library program and reading out loud to somebody else.

"The reason there is the reading out loud and listening is because we wanted to include our literacy students," Irby said. "We wanted to be very inclusive in our program and attract a variety of different people."

The children's program is aimed toward children with ages ranging from birth to 14, and you don't need to be able to read to participate. According to Sandy Silva,

head of children's services at the Pleasanton Library, a lot of work goes into making the game fun for everyone.

While many neighboring communities participate in the statewide summer reading program, Pleasanton's is entirely created—from the game to the elaborate decorations—by Pleasanton Library staff.

"The goal is just to keep [kids] reading and show them it's a joyous experience," Silva said about the children's program. "We don't test them or quiz them. We just show them that reading's fun."

According to Silva, it is very important to keep children reading over the summer so they don't regress.

"Studies show that children that don't read during the summer actually lose skills gained during the school year," Silva said. "That is referred to as the summer slide. If we can keep them reading we know they can keep their skills up."

Children who register for the program receive a treasure map to chart their progress. They mark



Elyssa Thome

Kid-Power volunteers give young readers their prizes at the library's Pirates' Lair.

every half hour they read, and reach an island for every five hours. When they reach an island, they can claim their "booty" at the library. You can register or collect prizes any time during library hours.

According to Silva, the large number of participants calls for a lot of support. Every year the library staff receives that support from the middle-school aged Kid-Power volunteer force.

"There is no way we could do this without them," Silva said.

"They are absolutely invaluable to making this a successful program."

Silva added that they usually have about 370 student volunteers who log well over 2,000 hours total.

In addition to the independent reading game, the library is also offering a variety of activities, programs and shows this summer, including a performance by maritime band The Seadogs this Saturday. All events are free, with admission on a first-come

(continued on page 7)

Military offered night's stay at downtown hotel

Rose Hotel begins fourth year of "Operation Hometown Welcome"

To celebrate its fourth year of offering military service members a free night's stay, the historic Rose Hotel has now been expanded to include service members returning from any overseas, unaccompanied tour of duty.

Called "Operation Hometown Welcome," the hotel began the program on July 4, 2005 to wel-

come servicemen and women from the Tri-Valley as they returned home from tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The program includes a gift certificate for one night's stay to be used within a year of homecoming, a bottle of champagne and a continental breakfast. Each participant will also receive an official

NFL football autographed by John Madden, who owns the hotel, an "Operation Hometown Welcome" t-shirt and gift certificate for MD Spa, also on Main Street.

To sign up for the program, participants need to verify their eligibility with a copy of their orders.

Hotel General Manager Phylis

Grisham said they have hosted 73 military service members since the program's inception. It is one of the hotel's three programs supporting the military. "The Greatest Generation" is an event honoring World War II veterans and is held in conjunction with the Pleasanton Veteran's Day parade in November; and "Operation

DVD" is an ongoing collection of new and used DVDs that are shipped to service personnel on active duty and in military hospitals as well as their families.

The 38-room boutique-style hotel is located at 807 Main St. For more information, call 846-8802.

—Janet Pelletier

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Cell phone law takes effect Tuesday

Adult drivers must use hands-free device, minors not allowed to use mobiles while driving

by Emily Atwood

Two years since the state law was ratified, new laws will take effect Tuesday that would only allow drivers to talk on a cell phone with a hands-free device. The second law, however, prohibits minors from using any cell phone functions while driving.

Sgt. Michael Collins with the Pleasanton Police Department's traffic division said officers can pull over anyone with a cell phone to their ear. Yet, as with the provisional license law, police can't pull over anyone talking with a headset that appears to be under the age of 18.

Both local police and California Highway Patrol will be giving citations. While the first offense base fine is \$20, additional statewide fees and penalties could make the

ticket as much as \$76. A base fine for a repeat offense is \$50 or \$190 with additional fees and penalties.

Handsets cost anywhere between \$15 and \$150 from major electronics retailers, with the more expensive options utilizing wireless Bluetooth technology. The most common design has them fit around the ear, yet others fit inside the ear. Some newer model cars have the option to include Bluetooth.

Drivers are also allowed to use the speaker phone option, however, the push-to-talk radio features are not allowed.

Collins said the highway patrol began to monitor the number of collisions where a cell phone was in use. This data, he said, led to the new phone laws.

From both a professional and

personal standpoint, Collins said he believes the new laws will help avoid collisions.

"I'm optimistic, like with any other law," he said. "A number of times I've been behind people talking on cell phones and driving around with their heads in the clouds. Driving a vehicle is a multi-task operation anyway."

The Department of Motor Vehicles reports that there will not be a grace period for these laws, but citations are always up to the discretion of a police officer.

Collins echoed that sentiment, adding that being strict about enforcing new laws has a positive effect. For example, he said kids in Pleasanton are conditioned to know they must wear a helmet when riding a bike because of the active enforcement. ■

Renovation brewing at Coffee Beans & Bistro

Baci owner buys coffee shop, plans to add more food options

by Janet Pelletier

For three weeks, downtown patrons may have noticed the windows of Coffee Beans & Bistro covered with parchment paper and a note on the front door announcing the coffee shop is being remodeled.

The renovations are expected to take at least another two months, according to Michael Hughes, who

purchased the shop in April.

Hughes, who also owns Baci Cafe further north on Main Street, said he plans to keep the business as a gourmet coffee and espresso shop as well as offering casual dining and more food options.

"We're going through the (city) permit process now," Hughes said. "We're starting the construction next week."

"We'll be open earlier and later in the day," he added.

Hughes said he's excited at the opportunity to revamp the store, which is located in the busiest part of downtown, next to Tully's Plaza.

"We're probably going to rename it," he said. "It has a lot of history to it, free Internet, and we're going to keep that going." ■

New water, wastewater rates go into effect Tuesday

Dublin San Ramon Services District says some rates lower, some higher

New water and wastewater rates will be introduced beginning Tuesday.

The Dublin San Ramon Services District made the announcement based on inflation, cost-of-service studies and other third-party studies.

Wastewater rates for single-family residential homes will decrease by \$14.62 per year.

Wastewater rates are comprised of local charges, which recover costs to collect the wastewater and deliver it to the treatment plant, and regional charges, which recover costs for treating and disposing of the wastewater. The district annu-

ally adjusts local wastewater rates based on the Consumer Price Index for the San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose areas. Local wastewater and water connection fees are adjusted based on the Engineering News-Record cost index for San Francisco.

The largest increases are for industrial users and are attributable to increasing costs of treating biosolids. Water and wastewater connection fees, which in some cases have not changed since 1999, also will increase.

Bi-monthly, local wastewater rates for single family homes will

increase from \$9.80 to \$10.08; for condominiums from \$7.35 to \$7.56 and for multi-family homes from \$6.40 to \$6.58. Regional wastewater rates will decrease from \$41.30 to \$38.60 for single-family dwellings; from \$27.45 to \$26.20 for condos and from \$21.50 to \$20.20 for multi-family homes.

The district serves 140,000 customers, providing wastewater collection and treatment to Pleasanton, Dublin and south San Ramon, and water service to Dublin and Dougherty Valley. For more information, visit www.dsrds.com.

—Janet Pelletier

Books

(continued from page 6)

basis as space allows.

"We have a whole host of things that will keep the library active and hopefully keep the community coming back to us," Silva said. "We welcome anybody at

any time."

For more information, visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library. The adult program also has a blog, featuring information and reviews that can be found at <http://adultsummerreading.wordpress.com>. While participants can register at any point, the sooner they do, the better the opportunity to win. ■

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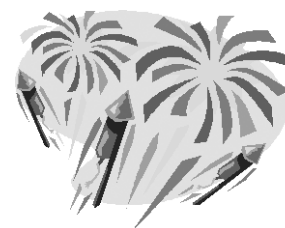
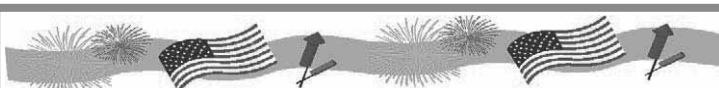
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Tulancingo exchange students visit

Exchange students from Tulancingo, Mexico—Pleasanton's Sister City of 25 years—are in town for about a month. The group's youth coordinator Pat Murray, along with host families, has planned activities for the group during their stay. They are pictured during a parade in Pleasanton's honor when the delegation recently visited Tulancingo.

Hosterman

(continued from page 5)

to address our mutual concerns." Hosterman's signature was on Resolution No. 55, "Opposes drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife refuge;" Resolution No. 81, "Support for the elimination of all nuclear weapons by the year 2020," and on a resolution submitted by Mayor Bob Kiss of Burlington, Vt., called "Mayoral No War on Iran Resolution."

The city of Pleasanton and Hosterman also won honorable mention in the 2008 mayors' climate protection awards category for their commitment to addressing the threat of climate disrup-

tions which the mayors said can hurt the environmental and economic health of their communities.

Hosterman was actually a sponsor of the anti-ANWR drilling agreement with Mayor Martin J. Chavez of Albuquerque. The resolution asserts that even if drilling in the wildlife refuge started immediately, "the ANWR would only produce one million barrels of oil per day, but not until 2015 when all necessary pipelines were in place."

The Hosterman-Chavez resolution further states:

"The production of one million barrels of oil per day from the ANWR represents a mere 4 percent of anticipated U.S. petroleum consumption and 6 percent of all imports. U.S. reliance on imported

petroleum will rise from 58 percent in 2010 to 65 percent in 2020 and 68 percent in 2025, and as such, the tiny fraction of U.S. imports from ANWR would only grow smaller with each passing year.

"Drilling for oil production in ANWR is not an answer to the nation's dependence upon foreign oil. The Arctic Refuge is the last piece of America's Arctic coastline not already open to oil exploration, and the Arctic Refuge is one of the world's last, true wilderness areas which coastal plain consists of a fragile swath of tundra teeming with staggering numbers of birds and animals, and a vital birthing ground for polar bears, grizzlies, Arctic wolves, caribou and the endangered shaggy musk ox."

In a report published Tuesday

Summer

(continued from page 5)

According to Glen Sparks, principal of adult and community education, the district's summer school program is characterized by its variety. While the emphasis in remedial summer courses is English and math, many others are offered, including the popular elementary camps, as well as a full slate of remedial courses and elective opportunities at the high school level.

"We are proud of the program," Sparks said. "Compared to other districts I've worked with, I think we have a really good variety."

In addition to the academic benefits for students, the summer school program is also beneficial for parents. According to Rafael Cruz, vice-principal of summer school this year, the enrichment of students offers their parents some peace of mind.

"For parents [the advantage] is just knowing their kids are having a productive summer and working

toward graduation, no matter what grade level they are in," Cruz said.

He added that students must attend all summer school courses and be motivated to learn in order to get the most out of the experience. For summer school to be the viable educational program that it is, students need to be there physically and mentally.

Summer school continues to be a popular program in Pleasanton. According to Sparks, this year's enrollment seems to be on pace with years' past, which means the program is almost at capacity. While first priority goes to Pleasanton kids and students who have failed classes, Sparks said they do their best not to turn many students away.

The administration expressed high hopes for this year's session, but did expect to see some obstacles.

"Year in and year out it is very successful," Sparks said. "At the same time, there are always things to improve and we always face new challenges." ■

morning in the Calgary Herald on Alberta's response to the resolution, staff writer Jon Harding wrote:

"This latest outcry came not from green groups, but from political leaders of the largest cities in the United States who called for a crackdown on fuels they said would cause catastrophic global warming at the annual meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors."

Hosterman defended her position, telling Harding in an interview: "We don't want to be...promoting the use of fuels which exceed the greenhouse gas emissions that are currently put into the atmosphere by (conventional) fuels."

As for the resolution opposing military action against Iran, Hosterman signed on to a document by the Burlington, Vt. mayor urging "a strong and large showing from mayors nationwide...a resolution (that) aims at avoiding another devastating war and calls for the use of diplomacy and for Congressional authorization before the use of any force."

"In these times when the Iraq war has sapped so many of our financial resources and cost the lives of our brave soldiers, I hope you will join me in voicing the determination of mayors across this country to stop a war with Iran before it begins," the resolution states.

The resolution, which had 20 co-sponsors, including Hosterman, urged the Bush Administration to pursue diplomatic engagement with Iran on nuclear issues and end the violence in Iraq. It urged Congress to prohibit the use of funds to carry out any military action against Iran without explicit Congressional authorization.

"These allegations are similar to the lead-up to the Iraq War and U.S. occupation, with the selective use of information and unsubstantiated accusations about Iran's nuclear program and its supply of weapons to Iraqi forces as centerpieces of a case to the American people for aggression against Iran," the resolution

states. "Iran has not threatened to attack the United States, and no compelling evidence has been presented to document that Iran poses a real and imminent threat to the security and safety of the United States that would justify an unprovoked unilateral preemptive military attack."

The resolution calling for the elimination of all nuclear weapons by 2020 followed similar efforts by a group of mayors at recent conferences to eliminate all nuclear weapons and stop the nuclear arms race. Hosterman walked with the "Mayors for Peace" group a year ago and signed on to this similar resolution, which again urges the federal government to sign the Kyoto Protocol on global warming and the Hiroshima-Nagasaki protocol, which could "conclude negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control."

During their concluding business session Tuesday, the nation's mayors debated and voted on other policy recommendations to forward to Congress and the new presidential administration. Among these were resolutions on bottled water, immigration, a national broadband policy on high speed internet connections and U.S. trade relations with Colombia.

In the midst of rising gas prices, increasing food costs and a weakening national economy, the mayors also released a survey showing the relationship between fuel costs, city budgets and mayors' climate protection efforts. Mayors are already leading on this issue in that more than 850 mayors, including Hosterman, have signed onto the mayors' climate protection agreement, which is a pledge for mayors to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in cities all over the country.

More information on the mayors' conference can be found on the organization's website at www.usmayors.org. ■

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Gina Channell-Allen, Ext. 19

Publisher

Jeb Bing, Ext. 18

EDITORIAL

Editor

Jeb Bing, Ext. 18

Managing Editor

Janet Pelletier, Ext. 11

Features Editor

Emily Atwood, Ext. 21

Intern

Elyssa Thome

Contributors

Jeri Pantages Long

Joe Ramirez

Cybele Ryan

ART & PRODUCTION

Designers

Trina Cannon, Ext. 14

Lili Cao, Ext. 25

Kristin Herman, Ext. 14

Manuel Valenzuela, Ext. 20

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Lisa Oefelein, Ext. 26

Circulation Director

Bob Lampkin, Ext. 41

Front Office Coordinator

Kathleen Martin, Ext. 0

How to reach the Weekly

5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100

Pleasanton, CA 94566

Phone: (925) 600-0840

Fax: (925) 600-9559

Editorial e-mail:

editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

calendar@PleasantonWeekly.com

Display Sales e-mail:

sales@PleasantonWeekly.com

Classifieds Sales e-mail:

ads@PleasantonWeekly.com

Circulation e-mail:

circulation@PleasantonWeekly.com

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Opinion

Editorial

TV30 stays independent, though news program ends

When veteran newscaster Tom Morrison signed off last night for the final time as anchor of TV30's "Live at 4" news, he closed out 20 years of regularly scheduled local news that the Tri-Valley's only community broadcast system has aired. With him in the small, cramped studio that TV30 rents from the Pleasanton school district were his current co-anchor Melinda Meza, former co-anchor Michelle Soba and his long-time co-anchor Robin Fahr, who will continue to host the station's talk show called "Conversations." Morrison has done a terrific job in reporting local news, launching the broadcast back in 1988. The name of the news changed over the years from "580-680 News" to the name most recently used, "Live at 4." Many talented people produced the news, including reporters and camera crews that have long since moved on to other work, with some taking jobs at commercial broadcast stations.

Darla Stevens, who founded the community television station in 1976 using borrowed equipment, studio space and hand-me-down video cameras and production gear, relied mostly on volunteers and a very low-paid staff to put programs on air during the week. She retired in 2003, succeeded for a brief time by Operations Manager Sheila Tole. Then the four cities that control TV30 and continue to control the pass-through funding of Comcast fees for the station hired a full-time professional to manage the station and use its production capacity to add revenue.

The first director, operating alone and without much guidance, lasted less than a year. A second director was brought in who lasted just twice as long, bringing more quality programming to the station but adding to its financial woes with costly new equipment and offsite news reporting and production. With the station going deeper into debt, the mayors of the four cities that TV30 serves—Jennifer Hosterman of Pleasanton, Janet Lockhart of Dublin, Marshall Kamena of Livermore and H. Abram Wilson of San Ramon—dismissed the all-volunteer board of directors and took over as TV30's new board of directors. What they found was a mess financially and technically, with an annual budget shortfall of more than a quarter-million-dollars and aging, sometimes incompatible software and broadcast equipment that caused the station to go dark, once for several days at a time. The mayors hired consultants and used their own city staffs to audit the station's books, survey Comcast subscribers to see who watches the station, and put TV30 on a stable financial track.

Last month, the mayors completed their work. They adopted a fiscal 2008-09 budget of \$550,000, which analysts believe can be funded through Comcast fees and station production and sponsorship revenue in the coming year. That action also meant cutting live news, the station's costliest venture at more than \$225,000 and half the station's paid staff. The board is recruiting a business manager/operations director, a one-person executive who will revise the station's programming and add more features, most of them pay-as-you-go, to meet viewer requests made in the survey and attract a wider audience. Key to the mayors' action was their pledge to keep TV30 politically independent, and to make it a more viable communications vehicle for disseminating programs of interest to the local Tri-Valley community. We couldn't agree more.

Letters

Thanks for honoring military

Dear Editor,

I was honored in 1991 with the Pleasanton July 4th parade.

I have just returned from my third deployment (second overseas tour in Iraq). I was in the Air Force

until 2005 when I was going to be forced to retire.

However, I wanted to continue to serve and am now with the U.S. Army Reserve.

Thank you for all you do.

SFC Dianne Buckhout

Heard it on Town Square...

On city parks director Jim Wolfe's December retirement:

Congrats to Jim on retirement. What an important role to fill here in Pleasanton. There were 2 main reasons we moved to Pleasanton: 1) The schools and 2) The Parks and Rec department that keeps our city looking so great and provides an avenue to for the community to participate via recreation events. My hope is that this is a team effort and not just limited to Mr. Wolfe meaning a new director will simply keep the good times rolling.

Posted by Kurt Brockett, a resident of the Vineyard Avenue neighborhood

Jim will leave some very big shoes to fill. He's done a great job for Pleasanton,

and our children and grandchildren will be enjoying his efforts for years to come. Just take a look at Val Vista Park, or Callippe Preserve, and just wait for the new Alviso Adobe Park and the Bernal Park, and you'll see the results of Jim's hard work. Thanks Jim, for all of your counsel and advice, and for making it all so much fun. The Parks and Recreation Commission appreciates the great things you've done here, and wishes you a happy retirement.

Posted by Kurt Kummer, Parks and Recreation Comm., a resident of the Highland Oaks neighborhood

• To visit the Weekly's online forum, visit www.pleasanton-weekly.com and click on Town Square.

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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.

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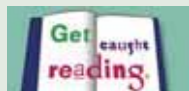
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Transitions

Obituaries

Rebecca W. Taylor

Rebecca W. Taylor died June 13 at the age of 26.

Mrs. Taylor was born in Payson, Utah to Michael and Christine Williams. Raised in the Pleasanton area, she attended Donlon Elementary School, Pleasanton Middle School and Foothill High School. She played volleyball for Foothill and Chabot College and received her degree at Las Positas College.

She received her certified nursing assistant license and served years of compassionate service to her patients, a job she thoroughly enjoyed. Mrs. Taylor was also studying to be a medical transcriptionist so she could work from home raising her 3 1/2-year-old daughter while her husband served in the National Guard deployed in Iraq.

Mrs. Taylor had a huge heart and an endearing personality. She was always willing to help those who needed it and touched so many lives with her indomitable spirit, faith, and gracious attitude as she struggled with her fight against melanoma cancer. Her example will live forever in the hearts and minds of all those who were privileged to meet her and support her in pursuing that noble cause.

She is survived by her parents, Michael and Christine Williams; her husband, Jesse Taylor; her daughter, Brooklyn; her brother, Cody and her two sisters, Lynsey and Hannah. She is also survived by her grandfather, LaVar Davies.

A service was held June 18 in Pleasanton and interment was completed in Springville, Utah June 20.

Memorial contributions are suggested in lieu of flowers to the "Brooklyn Taylor College Donation Account," which can be made by check sent to 3132 Paseo Robles, Pleasanton, CA 94566 or in person at any Wells Fargo banking institution.



Ernest Dohner

Longtime Pleasanton resident Ernest Dohner died June 17 after a brief illness.

Mr. Dohner was a much-loved husband, father, grandfather and friend and will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He will be remembered for his wonderful, cheerful humor, his boundless energy and his willingness to lend a helping hand, wherever and whenever needed.

Mr. Dohner was born Aug. 10, 1923. He and his wife, Nancy, moved to Pleasanton in 1957, and built a house on Happy Valley Road, where they raised a family and became key members of the community over the next 50 years.

He graduated from the University of Southern California in 1948 with a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering, and worked as a plant engineer at Leslie Salt Co. in Newark from

1957 until he retired in 1988. In retirement, he enjoyed traveling extensively in the U.S. and Europe, observing and supporting his grandchildren's many activities, maintaining an extensive garden, playing bocce in the Pleasanton Bocce League and volunteering at the Pleasanton Senior Center.

He is survived by his daughter, Emylyn (Emy) Dohner Kraft of Satellite Beach, Fla., her husband, Gordon, and daughter, Clara; son, John (Jay) of Portola Valley, Calif., his wife, Katherine, son, Adam, and daughter, Emma; sister, Gertrude Dohner Irvine of Westlake Village, Calif., her husband, Park, daughters, Jill and Carol, Carol's husband, Tim Mathews, and daughters, Marla, Jacqueline and Gabriela.

In celebration of Mr. Dohner's life, a gathering of friends and relatives will be held from 2 to 4:30 p.m. July 11 at the Pleasanton Senior Center. In addition, for those wishing to make a donation in his memory, a Nancy and Ernie Dohner Memorial Scholarship has already been established, providing scholarships each year to graduating students from Amador and Foothill high schools. Checks should be made payable to Amador Valley Scholarships, Inc., and mailed to Amador Valley



Scholarships, Inc., 4665 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton CA, 94566.

May Ethalene Foster

May Ethalene Foster died June 17 at the age of 99.

A Pleasanton resident, Mrs. Foster was born May 25, 1909 in New Iberia, La. She was one of 12 children. She was married to Hollis Foster (who died in World War II in England) and raised her three children: daughter, Jean Boutte and sons, Hollis Jr. and John Errol Foster, in New Orleans. She cared for her mother until her death and then moved to California to live with her daughter. While living with her daughter she traveled throughout the U.S. In 1981, she went to live with her son, John Errol.

She was a great help to both families in assisting with the raising of her grandchildren. She liked to sew, do puzzles and play cards and bingo. At the age of 85, she moved out on her own to the Orinda Senior Center and thoroughly enjoyed her independence. She spent 10 good years there and then moved to the Pleasanton guest home and finally to the Redwood Convalescent Home in Castro Valley. She is survived by her sister, Beaulah Hatfield of New Orleans, La.; daughter, Jean; sons, Hollis Jr. and John Errol; daughter-in-law, Jackie Foster; 12 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and many loving nieces and nephews. Viewing will be from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday at Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First St., Pleasanton, and funeral services at 10 a.m. Monday at St. Augustine Catholic Church. In lieu of flowers, the family encourages having a mass send in remembrance of Mrs. Foster at St. Augustine Catholic Church.

Deaths, Weddings and Births

are a free editorial service. Information should be submitted, typewritten or emailed no later than Monday at 5 p.m. Send to:

Transitions
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5506 Sunol, Suite 100.
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Or fax: (925) 600-9559
Or e-mail:
editor@PleasantonWeekly.com
(subject: Transitions)

Please include a contact name and telephone number. Not responsible for lost photos. Information how to send a photo digitally can be found on the Weekly's web site: www.PleasantonWeekly.com

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Community Pulse



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

In observance of Independence Day, City Hall offices will be closed on Friday, July 4th.

City Council summer meeting schedule:

July 1st - Cancelled

July 15th

August 5th - Cancelled

August 19th

The Human Services Commission meeting of July 2nd has been cancelled. The next regular scheduled commission meeting is August 6.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Job Announcements

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

- Director of Parks & Community Services – Full-Time
- Firefighter – Full-Time
- Firefighter/Paramedic – Full-Time
- Intern – Water Conservation Coordinator – Part-Time, Temporary
- Lifeguards – Part-Time, Temporary
- Police Dispatcher Lateral – Full-Time (Experience Required)
- Police Officer, Lateral or Academy Graduate – Full-Time, Permanent
- Senior Civil Engineer – Full-Time, Permanent
- Tri-Valley Community Television's (TV30) Business Manager/Executive Director - Full-Time
- Water Safety Instructor - Part-Time, Temporary

For more information, visit our employment page at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/employment/opportunities/

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

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

Police Bulletin

Veteran officers promoted

Pleasanton police officers Mark Reimer and Robert Leong were promoted to the rank of sergeant last Saturday, following the retirements of two longtime police supervisors, Sgt. Suzanne Soberanes and Sgt. Kristen Phelps.

Reimer has been with the department since 1997 after he graduated first in his police academy class in 1996. He has worked in patrol, personnel and training, the Alameda County Sexual Assault

Felony Enforcement Taskforce and investigations. He and wife Wendy live in Pleasanton with their two children.

Leong started at the Pleasanton Police Department in 1989 after spending six years with the BART Police Department. He has worked in patrol, field training, traffic and investigations as well as being involved in the Pleasanton Police Officers Association Board of Directors. Leong lives in San Ramon with his wife Patricia and their four children.

Police Report

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

June 15

- Theft:
 - 9:43 a.m. in the 4900 block of Valley Avenue; petty theft
 - 2:31 p.m. in the 2700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- DUI:
 - 1:16 a.m. at the intersection of West Las Positas Boulevard and Santa Rita Road
- Vehicle break-in:
 - 9:56 a.m. in the 8000 block of Ensenada Drive

June 16

- Petty theft:
 - 11:27 a.m. in the 5900 block of West Las Positas Boulevard
 - 3:42 p.m. in the 2900 block of Garden Creek Circle
- Vandalism:
 - 10:21 a.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Valley Avenue; worth less than \$400
 - 10:27 a.m. in the 2700 block of Santa Rita Road; worth less than \$400
 - 12:18 p.m. in the 2800 block of Hopyard Road; worth less than \$400
 - 12:20 p.m. at the intersection of Foothill Road and Raccoon Hollow Court; worth less than \$400
 - 12:21 p.m. in the 200 block of Division Street; worth less than \$400
- Burglary:
 - 6:03 p.m. in the 4500 block of Tahoe Court
- Marijuana possession:
 - 11:02 p.m. in the 2100 block of Rheem Drive
- Assault:
 - 7:50 p.m. in the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue
- Forgery:
 - 10:51 a.m. in the 7100 block of Koll Center Parkway

June 17

- Theft:
 - 6:45 a.m. in the 7400 block of Hillsdale Drive; grand theft
 - 7:23 a.m. in the 3100 block of Valley Avenue; grand theft
 - 2:39 p.m. in the 3200 block of Monmouth Court; identity theft
 - 3:55 p.m. in the 500 block of

- Cento Court; identity theft
 - 5:00 p.m. in the 4500 block of Chabot Drive; grand theft
 - 5:20 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- Burglary:
 - 11:02 a.m. in the 4500 block of Ross Gate Way
- Assault:
 - 5:41 p.m. in the 1400 block of Whispering Oaks Way
- Forgery:
 - 2:38 p.m. in the 6000 block of Stoneridge Drive
- Prank calls:
 - 11:42 a.m. in the 500 block of Saint John Street

June 18

- Theft:
 - 12:14 p.m. in the 3400 block of Cornerstone Court
 - 3:56 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft auto
 - 4:40 p.m. in the 7600 block of Stoneridge Drive; grand theft auto
 - 5:36 p.m. in the 4700 block of Willow Road; petty theft
- Burglary:
 - 8:36 a.m. in the 500 block of Saint John Street
 - 1:58 p.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; vehicular
 - 3:16 p.m. in the 5700 block of Johnson Drive
 - 4:00 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; vehicular
 - 4:40 p.m. in the 7600 block of Stoneridge Drive; vehicular
- Lost property:
 - 2:56 p.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road
 - 5:11 in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Found property:
 - 2:36 p.m. in the 8000 block of Regency Drive
- Prank calls:
 - 5:49 p.m. in the 800 block of Rose Avenue

June 19

- Vandalism:
 - 1:33 p.m. at the intersection of Birch Creek Drive and Vine Street; worth less than \$400
 - 10:20 p.m. at the intersection of Stanley Boulevard and Valley Avenue; worth less than \$400
 - 11:27 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Mohr Avenue; worth less than \$400

- Burglary:
 - 6:44 a.m. in the 5200 block of Arrezzo Street; vehicular
 - 7:47 a.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive; vehicular
 - 8:59 a.m. in the 5900 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; vehicular
 - 9:23 a.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard
 - 9:43 a.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road; vehicular
 - 10:11 a.m. in the 3700 block of Smallwood Court; vehicular
- Alcohol violations:
 - 12:07 a.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Kolln Street; DUI
 - 11:51 p.m. in the 3100 block of Valley Avenue; public drunkenness
- Assault:
 - 1:17 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road
 - 10:37 a.m. in the 4000 block of Santa Rita Road
- Lost property:
 - 12:03 p.m. in the 4200 block of Sheldon Circle
- Recovered vehicle:
 - 8:47 a.m. in the 4200 block of Silver Street

June 20

- Theft:
 - 11:16 a.m. in the 2500 block of Glen Isle Avenue
 - 3:37 p.m. in the 3200 block of Novara Way; identity theft
 - 4:16 p.m. in the 5300 block of Owens Court; grand theft
 - 10:29 p.m. in the 5600 block of Belleza Drive; grand theft
- Vandalism:
 - 4:21 p.m. in the 3600 block of Vineyard Avenue; worth more than \$400
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 4:16 p.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard
- DUI:
 - 12:12 a.m. in the 6600 block of Koll Center Parkway
 - 10:42 p.m. at the intersection of Inglewood Drive and Hopyard Road
- Embezzlement:
 - 8:46 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Trespassing:
 - 10:19 a.m. in the 4200 block of Churchill Drive

Calendar

Book Clubs

Great Books of Pleasanton The Great Books of Pleasanton book club meets at 7:30 p.m. the fourth Monday monthly at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Call Sadie at 846-1658.

Non-Fiction About Our Fantastic Brains This book club meets the at 7:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. "How Doctors Think" by Dr. J Groopman will be discussed in April and May, and "Einstein Never Used Flash Cards" by Drs. Hirsh-Pasek, Golinkoff and Eye. This is not a lecture series; book must be read before discussion. Call 846-8826. The cost is \$2.

Civic Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Classes

Genealogy Booth at County Fair Find your long-lost ancestors at the Genealogy booth in the Technology Building at the Alameda County Fair, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., which runs June 20 to July 6. It's open from 1 to 8 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday; and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday and Friday through Sunday. Call Barbara Hempill, 846-9739.

Clubs

Amador Valley Toastmaster Club Wake up your career and improve your communication skills by joining the Amador Valley Toastmaster Club. They meet at 7 a.m. Thursdays at Mimi's Cafe in Dublin.

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

Communication Arts Network The East Bay's Communications Arts Network (CommArt) meets from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at Forli Ristorante in Alamo. Tickets are \$20 cash, includes lunch. Call Terry, 462-8083, or visit www.commartnet.org.

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

NARFE The Livermore Chapter 0397 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association meets at 12:30 p.m. the second Thursday monthly at Emil Villa's Restaurant at the corner of Pacific and S. Livermore avenues in Livermore. Call 484-0813 or 846-7167.

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

Tri-Valley Rotary Club Meeting The Tri-Valley Rotary Club is one of the newest and most diverse Rotary Clubs. Club members meet Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Girasole Grill, 3180 Santa Rita Road. The cost is \$20. Email info@trivalleyrotary.org.

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

TwinValley Mothers of Twins Meeting Join us for our monthly Twin Valley Mother of Twins meeting, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at John Knox Presbyterian Church, 7421 Amarillo Road, Dublin. Our goal is to provide support, information and friendship to Mothers of Multiples. Roundtable question and answer time is at 6:30 p.m.; dads are encouraged to attend the roundtable. Call DeAnna at 948-0004 or visit www.tvmotc.com.

Widowed Men and Women The group meets at 1:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday monthly in the Dublin Public Library. The speaker for the July 1 meeting will be Leslie Graham, a puppy trainer from Guide Dogs for the Blind. Guests are welcome. Call 830-8483.

Women's Investment Club Women's stock investment club meets at 7 p.m. the third Wednesday monthly in Livermore. Club follows Better Investing's principles for studying stocks and investing for the long term while having fun. Call Barbara at 484-1319 or Eleanor at 846-6911 for details.

Women's Networking Opportunity The local ABWA E2S chapter meets at 6 p.m. the third Tuesday monthly at Four Points Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard Road, which focus on personal and professional development for women in business. Meetings include a guest speaker and networking opportunities. Nonmembers are welcome to attend at a cost of \$5 per meeting. Call 225-1135 or visit www.expressstosuccess.org.

Concerts

Concerts in the Park The Pleasanton Downtown Association presents the 2008 Concert in the Park series. Each concert is from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Lions Wayside Park at First and Neal streets. The lineup is The Crisis, June 27; D-Lucca, July 25; Houserockers, Aug. 1; Finding Stella, Aug. 8; La Ventana, Aug. 15; Magic Moments, Aug. 22; Pladdohg, Aug. 29; Public Eye, Sept. 5.

Livermore Rotary Music Scholarship Concert Dorian Michael, guitar, and Kenny Blackwell, mandolin, bring their nimble fingers and a variety of styles for a benefit concert at 7 p.m. July 10 at the Our Savior Lutheran Church, 1385 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore. Proceeds will benefit the Livermore Rotary Club's Music Scholarship Fund. Tickets are \$15 or \$11 for students. Call 447-8924.

Events

Celebrate America! Celebrate America 2008: A Musical Review is from 5 to 9 p.m. June 29 at Valley Christian Center, 7500 Inspiration Drive, Dublin. Celebrate America with music and singing, armed forces recognition, baking contest, games for all ages, food, live entertainment and a laser light show. Call 560-6202 or visit www.dublinvcc.org.

First Wednesday Street Party From 6 to 9 p.m. July 2, it's "Red White and Blues," with Georgi and the Rough Week band, and the 91st Division Band marching down Main Street and giving a concert at the Veteran's Memorial Building. VFW Post 6298 members will lead tours of the renovated building in the evening.

Pleasanton Art League's Children's Painting Workshop Pleasanton Art League's two-day Children's Painting Workshop, for ages 9 to 13, is from 9 a.m. to noon July 9 and 10, at the Regelia House, 4133 Grevalia St. Students will learn traditional painting techniques using acrylic paints. The \$45 fee includes all materials. Call 462-7964 or visit www.pal-art.com.

Exhibits

ArtLive Artist Jeffrey Hemming takes part in Art Live at Poetry On Canvas, 55 W. Angela St. Ste. 205. He will be painting at the farmers market Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The

Weekend Preview



Roller derby is back at the fair

For the first time in almost 20 years, the SF Bay Bombers are back to compete at the Alameda County Fair this weekend. The Bombers will battle it out against the Brooklyn Red Devils, the team's toughest competition, according to General Manager Jim Fitzpatrick, who was once a Bomber himself. Saturday and Sunday will be mini-games at 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. in an outdoor banked track near the Valley Avenue entrance. To learn more about the team, visit www.myspace.com/bombersrollerderby.

Hawaii-based artist's work reflects his love of surfing and the islands. His artwork will be on display at the gallery through Aug. 15.

Glass Fantastic: Multi-media Glass Exhibit Worthington Gallery West, 739 Main St., Ste. J, presents Glass Fantastic!, an exhibit of museum-quality art glass, highlighting the history and techniques of art glass in a variety of media. Several Bay Area artists are represented. Many pieces will be on sale in a range of prices. Exhibit runs through Aug. 2, with an open house is from 3 to 6 p.m. June 21. Call 485-1183 or visit www.worthingtongallery-west.com.

Pleasanton Art League Circuit Change The Pleasanton Art League's Public Art Circuit will mount exhibits from through July 18 at Bank of America, Keller Williams Realty, Towne Center Books, Me & Mai Friend's Cafe, Vogue Hair Studio, Realty Express & Sallman, and Yang & Alameda CPAs. A portion of sales supports PAL's community programs. Call Lissa, 518-4436. Pleasanton.

Sculptor Mackenzie Thorpe Studio 7 Fine Arts, 400 Main St., hosts internationally acclaimed artist and sculptor Mackenzie Thorpe in an exhibition of his bronze sculptures, pastel paintings and limited editions. The exhibit will run through July 1.

Film

Bush Crimes Commission Hearings In 2005, in NYC, an international tribunal invited government officials and others to offer testimony regarding Bush war crimes and crimes against humanity. This film screening is at 7 p.m. June 28 at the IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin, and is open to the public, wheelchair accessible and refreshments are served. Meet and greet at 6:30 p.m. and a short discussion follows the film. Donations accepted.

Movie Classics Matinee View classic movies on a big screen at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. Free popcorn and lemonade are included. Showing on June 20 is "North by Northwest" and June

29 is "Memoirs of a Geisha." Call 556-4511.

Fundraisers

Art Sales Benefit Boosters Local artist Gary Winter made two miniatures pertaining to Amador Valley High School. They are for sale at Worthington Gallery West, 739 Main St., to benefit the school's Booster Club. Call 485-1183.

Boys and Girls Car Campaign Now that the price of scrap metal has sharply risen, the Boys and Girls Car Campaign will accept most any car with no restrictions. Cars will be picked up anywhere in California, usually within a week, and are sold at auction. To donate, call 800-246-0493. Funds obtained by the sales go directly to help the California clubs.

Health

Diabetes Support Group Free support group meets the second Wednesday of the month at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. Topics will cover travel, stress, medications, food, emotions and general living with diabetes. Call 510-383-5185.

Kids & Teens

High Seas Bookaneer Adventure Set sail this summer at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., to play the 2008 summer reading game. Track time spent reading (or being read to) as you travel the high seas in search of treasure. The game runs every day through Aug. 1. Weekly free special events are listed at the Library's website. Call 931-3400 ext. 8.

Livermore Shakespeare Festival Youth Class This five-day course from July 28 to Aug. 1 at the Bothwell Arts Center in Livermore is designed to promote creativity in an ensemble setting. The cost is \$185. Visit www.ShakespearesAssociates.org.

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Livermore Shakespeare Festival Youth Class This five-day course from July 21 to 25 at the Bothwell Arts Center in Livermore is designed to promote creativity in an ensemble setting. The cost is \$185. Visit www.ShakespearesAssociates.org.

Pleasanton Job's Daughters Club Meetings This organization is for young ladies (minimum age 10 for full membership, ask about program for younger girls) who enjoy dances, sleepovers, parties, social events, snow trips, ice skating, camping, traveling and other fun activities. Regular Meetings are held at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Mondays at the Pleasanton Masonic Center, 3370 Hopyard Road. Call 640-4599 or visit www.bethel14.com.

Pleasanton Police Teen Citizen's Academy Pleasanton PD will again host the teen academy from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays through July 15 to 29 at the police department, 4833 Bernal Ave. The academy is open to residents of Pleasanton, ages 14-18. Students will learn about police functions. For an application call 931-5100.

Write Now! Summer Writing Camps Hacienda School, 3800 Stoneridge Drive, is hosting a three-week summer writing program starting in July, for grades 2-8. Classes include expository writing, creative writing and presentation techniques. The cost is \$500 to \$1,350. Visit www.headsup.org.

Live Music

Chris Bradley's Traditional Jazz Listen and dance to the live, traditional jazz every second and fourth Tuesday at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St.

Wente Vineyards Charity Concert Fundraiser Help human rights and enjoy live music and wine at a charity concert from 1 to 3 p.m. June 28 at Wente Vineyards, 5565 Tesla Road, Livermore. Tickets are \$25 minimum donation and comes with discounts. Proceeds go to landmark UN-partnered film. Visit <http://shop.rawpp.com>.

Miscellaneous

Chinese School Open Enrollment New students at the Pleasanton Community Chinese School may enroll for the 2008-09 school year. The school teaches Chinese to children as well as adults. No experience required. Visit www.pccs-usa.org to download the registration form. Call 417-2326 or email Pccs94588@yahoo.com.

Pleasanton Library Adult Summer Reading Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., presents the first summer reading program for adults from June 14 to July 26. Win prizes by reading books, listening to audiobooks and attending library programs. Come to the Library reference desk to sign up. Call 931-3400 ext. 7.

On Stage

Shakespeare's Grand Tale of Heroic Adventure Comes to Pleasanton Park Pericles is the story of a young man, Prince Pericles, who embarks on an epic journey that ultimately triumphs good over evil. The cast of 11 actors portray numerous roles and play live music throughout the show, including folk, country and bluegrass tunes. Free shows are at 7:30 p.m. at the Amador Valley Community Park, 4301 Black Ave., June 28 and 29, July 5 and 6, and July 12 and 13.

Seniors

Ageing, Medication and Alcohol As we age, the need to take multiple medications tends to increase, and we are

more likely to have a greater sensitivity to alcohol consumption. Learn to recognize the side effects and symptoms of misuse and discover preventative tips from 10 to 11:30 a.m. July 8 at the senior center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$1.50 for residents, or \$2 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

Health Chat Health Chat takes place from 10 to 11:30 a.m. every Thursday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. This group setting informs and educates seniors about various health issues. It is open forum and an interactive session. Sponsored by Amador Valley Adult School and the senior center. Call 426-4280.

Pleasanton PC Users Group The PC User Group meets monthly at 10 a.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. You don't need to be an expert to attend, we have all skills levels in our meetings. Call 931-5365 or email pleasenor@yahoo.com for details.

Seniors Computer Tutoring One-on-one computer tutoring is available every day at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The tutor works with you on topics where you need help. No formal program to follow, just help where you need it. Internet, Office applications, picture editing, etc. Call 931-5365 to set up an appt.

Spiritual

Faith Chapel Assembly of God Sunday services include: All ages Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., worship at 10:30 a.m., and children's church (ages 2 to 12) at 11:15 a.m. Women's Bible study meetings 10 a.m. Wednesdays. Call 846-8650.

Spiritual but not Religious? A recent national survey found that 25 percent of all Americans say "yes" to that question. How does Tri-Valley Unity speak to that need? Check out the "Spiritual but not Religious?" page on our website, www.trivalleyunity.com. This Sunday's sermon topic by guest speaker Rev. Steve Maynard is "A Declaration of Freedom and Love." Service at 10 a.m. at the Radisson, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. All are welcome. Call 829-2733.

Women's Christian 12 Step Discover how much comfort there is in the journey of recovery walking with the Good Shepherd every STEP of the way! This group meets at noon every Friday and Saturday at Shepherd's Gate, 1660 Portola Ave., Livermore. Call 443-4283.

Sports

California Spirit Elite All-Star Cheerleading CSE has recreation tumbling classes and competition cheerleading teams for girls and boys ages 5 to 18 from the Tri-Valley area. Sign ups for the 2008-09 season run through the end of July. Call 462-5877.

Callippe Niners Callippe Niners is a fun group of nine-hole women golfers. We are currently welcoming new members into our group. Our play days are Tuesday mornings. Call Joan, 462-1054.

Pleasanton Summer Lacrosse Programs Pleasanton Lacrosse Club's three summer programs, for grades 1 to 12, have both PLC coaches as well as local high school coaches and players there to teach players. All summer programs below will be held at Hart Middle School, 4433 Willow Road. Cost is \$50 to \$75. Visit www.pleasantonlacrosse.com.

Saturday Morning Beginner Ride This weekly no-drop ride from 8 to 10 a.m. Saturdays is for those new to cycling, who haven't been on their bike for a while or just want to ride at a slower pace. Rides depart from Cyclepath Pleasanton and will generally be 12 to 15 mph, 20 to 25 miles and no more than two hours.

E-mail rides@cyclepath.com if you plan to attend.

Sunday Morning Group Ride Join cyclists of all levels from 8 to 11 a.m. Sundays for this friendly, no-drop road ride. Routes vary weekly and last approximately two to three hours. Riders warm up together and split into smaller groups based on skill level (A—60 miles, B—35 to 40 miles, C—20 to 25 miles). Bring water and a snack. Rides depart from Cyclepath, 337-B Main St. (in the Bank of America building).

Support Groups

Cancer Support Group A free support group for people with cancer and their caregivers meets at 2 p.m. every Tuesday at the ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Ste. 270. Sponsored by The Wellness Community. Call 933-0107.

Crohns and Ulcerative Colitis Support Group This support group meets at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of every month at the ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Ste. 270. Walk-ins are welcome. Feel free to bring a guest. Call 462-6764 or 846-4653.

Domestic Violence Support Group On-going support for women dealing with conflictual issues is available at Tri-Valley Haven, Livermore, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Thursdays. A fee of \$40 for every eight weeks or based on a sliding scale. Call Elizabeth, 667-2799.

Fibromyalgia Plus Support Group Fibromyalgia Plus Support Group meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. the first Thursday monthly at the ValleyCare Library, 5725 W Las Positas Blvd Suite 270. All are welcome. Call 734-3315.

Grief Support The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. This grief support group meets at 7:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday monthly at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive, beginning June 12. Call Joan, 828-6864.

Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group The Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group meets at 10 a.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month at Heritage Estates Retirement Community, second floor conference room, 900 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. All are welcome. Contact Lorene Stack, 447-6158 or Ann Laye, 443-4098.

Overeaters Anonymous Meeting Is food controlling your life? Newcomers are welcome at the Overeaters Anonymous Meetings every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way (Parish Hall), Livermore. Call 361-7224.

Pleasanton Military Families Pleasanton Military Families, a support group for families of service members, meets at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month. The group includes families who have loved ones serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and in the Global War on Terrorism. Meetings are held at a different group member's home each month. Call Chris Miller for information on the placement of a yellow streamer for the military person on Main Street and for information on the group, 730-1604.

Prostate Cancer Support Group The Man to Man American Cancer Society program is designed to help men cope with prostate cancer by providing community based education and support to patients and their family members. The group meets at 7:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at San Ramon Regional Medical Center's south conference room, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. Men at any stage of prostate cancer and their family members are welcome. Michael Stephens, MST, facilitates. Call 933-0107.

Tri-Valley Parkinson's Support Group The group meets at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month at the Pleasanton Senior

Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., to provide information and support for Parkinson's patients and caregivers. Call 831-9940.

Vision Support Group Individuals with low vision, and their loved ones, are invited to join us on the third Tuesday of each month from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Join us for low vision information, speakers, resources, discussions, and day trips. No reservations are required. Nominal fees may apply. Call 931-5369.

Volunteering

Blankets for Kids Blankets For Kids, founded by Pleasanton resident Jo Molz, makes and distributes soft fleece blankets to at-risk, abused and neglected children in the Tri-Valley, Alameda County and even Los Angeles. The easy-to-make blankets are constructed of a soft fleece material with pleasant designs. Volunteers have made more than 10,000 blankets for distribution since the organization began. Those interested in volunteering, or donating money or fleece to the nonprofit organization call Jo, 846-6155.

Hats Off America Volunteers are wanted for the Hats Off America Casino Night April 19; Muscle Car, Hot Rod, and Art Fair May 16 to 18; Red T-Shirt 10K runs/5K walks June 7, Sept. 13 and Nov. 8. HOA is a nonprofit organization benefiting families of fallen soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Email Sparky George, thebearflagrunner@yahoo.com.

San Damiano Retreat Opportunities abound for people of all ages and abilities at San Damiano, 710 Highland Drive, Danville. Sit and socialize while helping with mailings,

enjoy solitude and meditation while cultivating the flower, vegetable and fruit gardens, or lend your support to the front desk and gift shop. Open seven days a week includes a free meal. Call 831-9141 ext. 307.

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue Do you love animals? Become a volunteer or a Foster with Tri-Valley Animal Rescue. Orientations are held at East County Animal Shelter (ECAS) from 1 to 2:30 p.m. the second Saturday and fourth Sunday of each month. Registration is not required to attend the orientation. Call 803-7043 or visit www.tvrar.org.

TV30

In a Word Host Kathy Cordova and TV30 Book Club guests Jennifer Hosterman and Becky Hopkins discuss "Last Child in the Woods" by Richard Louv. Kathy's interview with NY Times bestselling author, Elizabeth Strout, author of "Olive Kitterage," and "A Few More Words" by Judy Wheeler. Showing daily 6:30 a.m., 12:30, 3:30 and 9:30 p.m.

In A Word Join hosts Kathy Cordova and Jim Ott as they discuss "City of Thieves" with Steve Sherman and Robin Toschi. Jim interviews Elizabeth Berg, author of "The Day I Ate Whatever I Wanted." Judy Wheeler has Beach Read recommendations and A Few More Words by Camille Minichino. Daily 6:30 am, 12:30 & 9:30 pm.

Let's Talk Sports TV30's legendary George "Dr. B" Baljevich Sports Memorabilia Show with Mark MacRae. Hall of Fame cards and uniforms, programs, display items and more. On Channel 30 Mon., Sat., & Sun.. at 9:30 a.m. and everyday at 12 noon, 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

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Troubled Market

Housing sales, prices down, but Pleasanton better than most

by Jeb Bing

Jim Lavey has seen it all. A Realtor for the last 35 years in Pleasanton where he has lived since 1959, he has represented hundreds of buyers and sellers in good times and bad. Lavey, who is affiliated with Allied Brokers Real Estate, said that while these are not the worst of times—such as we saw during the dot-com bust or in the early 1980s when mortgage interest rates hit 20 percent and higher—these are not good times in real estate either, especially for sellers.

For buyers, who have good credit under tighter lending rules, these may be the best of times with some homes in Pleasanton that sold two years ago for \$999,000 now being advertised for \$100,000 less. Plus mortgage interest rates, while higher than a year ago, are still at historic lows.

Even with more than 324 homes on the Pleasanton market today, only 11 are bank-owned because of short sales when banks took over the mortgages, or foreclosures, where the owners simply walked away. This compared to 24 bank-owned homes on the market in Dublin this week, 50 in Livermore, 121 in Brentwood, 514 in Antioch and 521 in Oakland.

In Washington, D.C., lawmakers are moving with a sense of urgency to approve a rescue-refinancing plan aimed at stemming the tide of more than 8,000 new foreclosures a day that lenders are filing across the country. Partly as a result, housing prices on average for the country have plummeted 15 percent from a year ago.

Prices are down in Pleasanton, too, but not by as much. According to Dave Stark of the Bay East Association of Realtors, there's been a 2 percent drop in the median sales price since the first of the year, with a home priced earlier



One of only a few bank-owned foreclosure homes in Pleasanton, this three-bedroom ranch at the corner of Touriga Drive and Touriga Place is listed by Turn Key Realty at \$510,000, more than \$200,000 under recent sales in the neighborhood.

at \$825,000 now being marketed at \$810,000. By comparison, prices are down 20 percent and more in Newark, Hayward and Union City, according to Bay East data.

Lavey pointed out that except for homeowners who bought in the frenzied peak sales and pricing markets of 2005-06, most here have equity gains that will still give them sizeable capital gains if they sell today at less than they might have received a year ago.

Carol Rodoni, president of Bamboo Consulting and a real estate industry expert and consultant who also writes several real estate columns for Bay Area newspapers, agreed.

"When you look at Pleasanton as a whole, and I come to the East Bay often, you find real estate in this city very protected," she said at recent town hall meeting at the Veterans Memorial Building. "First of all, you are almost fully developed out here. Basically you have a wonderful infrastructure. You have a diverse selection of apartments, condominiums, homes and various neighborhoods. You have a great school district. Even if you are commuting, you are still close enough to San Francisco and the Silicon Valley to make liv-

ing here do-able."

"When I looked at some of the prices that you have here and what's really happened, I found that as recently as 1996, you could have bought a home here for \$290,000," she added. "By 2004, you were already up to \$722,500. You peaked at \$831,750. Now you have gone down a little, but if you look at the current market, it's basically at about \$780,000."

Rodoni said the real estate market in Pleasanton closely parallels the markets in Danville, Lafayette, Orinda and much of the mid-Peninsula in that they have been only nominally impacted by the real estate downturn that is troubling much of the country.

"When you think that there are places that have decreased in value 30, 40 and 50 percent and that you've had a decline about 13 percent, which is normal in a correcting market such as the one we're in, this is incredible."

At the same meeting, Major Jennifer Hosterman cited some of the strengths of Pleasanton that continue to attract homebuyers, even in a weak housing market.

"We have great schools, a vibrant downtown,

Jeb Bing



Realtor Donna Garrison just posted a "Sale Pending" sign on the post outside this large four-bedroom house on Concord Street, which listed for \$1,024,000.

good transportation and a diverse population," she said. "I will also tell you that the city's finances are in very good shape. I'm one of very few mayors in the state of California that can say that. For instance, if we had to buy a fire truck tomorrow, we could do it with cash on hand."

Rodoni predicted that the real estate market will remain troubled through the second quarter of 2009, when home sales and prices should start to rebound.

"If you own a home in Pleasanton and you can keep it, then keep it," she advised. "Because this is how real estate works: every 30 years, you add a zero. It's the magic of compounding. When you go back and you look at 1906, if a house cost \$200, you move it forward and it was worth \$2000. Move it forward another 30 years and it was worth \$20,000. Then move it forward 30 years to 1996 and that same house was worth \$200,000. If we keep going, someday it will sell for \$2 million."

"Real estate is an asset that's available to everybody," she said. "You must have it in your portfolio to build wealth."

Lavey said that in today's challenging real estate market, sellers need to use the services of an experienced Realtor, listen to professional advice and scout the market themselves to see what similar homes are priced at.

He said homes fall into price point categories that have \$100,000 increments. Right now, there are about 30 homes in the \$700,000-\$800,000 price point category and another 30 in the next category priced between \$800,000 and \$900,000. Prospective buyers work with a Realtor first to identify their housing interests and to obtain pre-approved financing through a lender in a specific price point category. The Realtor then shows the buyer five or six of the best homes in that category, but not all 30.

"Today is far different from 2005 when buyers were standing in line with multiple bids for many Pleasanton homes, no matter what the condition," Lavey said. "Many Realtors use stagers who come into a house and prepare it for sale, even if it means recarpeting, painting over wallpaper, sending much of the furniture to a storage service."

"My job, and it's not always an easy one, is to tell the owner that even though they've lived with their wallpaper and green carpeting and turquoise bedroom for years, they have to make changes of they want to sell their home in this market," Lavey explained.

"You want your house to be as sharp as you can make it because we're in a very price sensitive and



Realtor Jim Lavey stands in the landscaped backyard of a home he has listed for sale at 7875 Sylvaner Drive for \$874,000. Lavey says homes must be in near-perfect condition to catch the eye of buyers in this tough real estate market.

fast-changing market," he continued. "You want to be where you need to be with the price right from the start. If you're not, Realtors won't show it and no one will make an offer. The risk is that the longer it's on the market, the greater the chance it will lose another \$10,000-\$25,000 in market value and you don't want that to happen."

Sales are also time-sensitive as well as dependent on price.

"We're almost to July," Lavey said. "Our market will start to shut down come mid-September to October, and then we will start to see people who have to sell drop their price."

"Because now, with school starting at the end of August, most of the homes in Pleasanton, including many in the Vintage Hills area where I have several listings, really appeal to families. They want to be in their new home with the kids ready for school."

"As bad as the market is across the country, and even weak here in Pleasanton for seller, it's a good time for buyers," he added. "This city continues to attract families, interest rates are still low and financing is readily available with good credit." ■

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Dining Out

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American

Vic's All Star Kitchen

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

Bridges

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

Pleasanton Hotel Restaurant

855 Main St., Pleasanton, 846-8106. Executive Chef Chris Smith 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

Mahalo Grille

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

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 (Attabay IPA) are brewed with locally grown hops. We also have a rotating selection of guest brews and seasonal ales. To-go orders welcome and we're available for parties up to 100. Live music every Friday and Saturday, visit www.mainstreetbrewery.com for activities and specials.

The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill

3015H Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 426-9600. Voted Best Watering Hole in Pleasanton, The Hop Yard offers 30 craft beers on tap as well as great food. The full-service menu includes appetizers, salads and grilled fare that will bring you back time and again. Banquet facilities available. On the web at www.hopyard.com.

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).

Girasole Grill/Pampered Palate Catering

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.

Pleasanton Hotel Catering

351-9445. The Pleasanton Hotel Restaurant has proudly provided our

fine-dining restaurant, banquet and catering services in the Tri-Valley for over 25 years. We have multiple catering packages to choose from to fit any event & budget; we also tailor menus to fit client's needs. Executive Chef Chris Smith also offers an array of creative events from In-Home Personal Chef to Cooking Classes. Our commitment to provide the highest quality of food plus prompt and attentive service has given us a reputation we are very proud of. Contact Dawn Miller for more information 351-9445.

Chinese

Chinese Szechuan

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

Panda Mandarin Cuisine

30 W. Angela St., Pleasanton, 484-4880. Panda offers several delicious specials using fresh ingredients and spices that make traditional northern Chinese cuisine such a delight.

Open for lunch Monday through Friday, dinner Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday. A private banquet room is available. Visit www.pandapleasanton.com.

Continental

Barone's

475 St. John St., Pleasanton, 426-0987. Pleasanton's most romantic continental cuisine restaurant features innovative pasta, seafood and meat entrees, outdoor dining, and a full bar. Barone's is open for dinner seven nights and lunch Monday through Friday, with live music on Friday and Saturday evenings. Ask about our banquet facilities and special events.

Fusion

Oasis Grille

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

Italian

Fontina Ristorante

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

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La Vite Ristorante

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

Girasole Grill

3180 Santa Rita Road at West Las Positas Boulevard, Pleasanton, 484-1001. Girasole, a locally owned family business, is an award winning California style Italian restaurant. It was voted Best Italian Restaurant by Pleasanton Weekly readers for 2007. We feature signature cuisine such as Scoozzi, Absolut! prawns, chicken gorgi, spinach 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

Blue Agave Club

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

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


Bighorn Grill

2410 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon, 838-5678. Relax in our luxurious "mountain lodge" with a quintessential martini. Experience the aroma and flavors of our wood-fired grill. Enjoy a savory steak, traditional prime rib, smoked ribs, fresh seafood, and a variety of signature dishes. Fabulous wine list and two private banquet rooms. Visit www.bighorngrill.com.

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La Vite
Ristorante

- Catering Service
- Take Out Menu

Open for Lunch and Dinner

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925-485-4500
www.LaViteRestaurant.com

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PLEASANTON WEEKLY .COM

Do You Know Someone Who Deserves a Makeover?



www.RomanHolidaySalon.com

Go to www.pleasantonweekly.com to download an entry form and tell us who deserves a makeover and why (can be male or female). Contest runs from June 20, 2008 to July 11, 2008. Essays will be judged by a panel of Pleasanton Weekly staff members. The winner will receive a makeover from Roman Holiday Salon (valued up to \$350).

So go to www.pleasantonweekly.com and download your entry form. Entry must be delivered to Roman Holiday Salon, 4555 Hopyard Road, Suite 9, Pleasanton during regular business hours. (Mon. 9-5, Tues.-Thurs. 9-9, Fri. 9-7, Sat. 9-5, closed on Sunday). Contest ends Friday, July 11th.

PLEASANTON WEEKLY


www.PleasantonWeekly.com

pleasanton downtown association presents

concerts in the PARK

Fridays 7 PM to 8:30 PM


lions wayside park at first & neal streets



June 27
The Crisis
(Honky Tonk, Funk, Rock)
Sponsored by Zzippes

July 11
Tommy & the 4
Speeds
(50's & 60's)
Sponsored by Accusplit Activity Wellness

www.pleasantondowntown.net (925) 484-2199



Weekly Concerts in the Park Drawing

NAME: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Bring this entry form to this week's concert for a chance to win great prizes

Donated by members of the Pleasanton Downtown Association. Must be present to win. Must be 21 years of age to enter.



Robin Saler Briscoe
R.N.
Case Management



Alison Leung
PharmD
Pharmacy



Pam Robson
B.S., RHIT
Health Information

Marjorie Toreja
R.N., BSN
Definitive Care Unit
Employee of the Year



Mila Quilapio
R.N.
Medical/Surgical Unit



Bob Leek
PTA
Physical Therapy

celebrating

EXTRAORDINARY CARE



Bill Edwards
Patient Access
Support Services Hero



Ruth Burk
R.N.
Emergency



Alison Ozment
RT(R)
Diagnostic Imaging



Sharon Glover
R.N.
Endoscopy



Brooke Wales
R.N., BSN
Family Birthing Center



Ajay K. Jain
RDCS
Cardiology
Caregiver of the Year

Not shown: Hawanda McCorley, CNA, Medical/Surgical Unit

Everyone knows that it's not bricks and mortar, but great people who make you feel better. It's why we pause each year to celebrate the extraordinary people that make our hospital a remarkable place. From the emergency room, to the operating room, to your room, we're here for you.

AWARDS

- 2007 American Heart Association Performance Achievements Awards for Coronary Artery Disease and Heart Failure
- 2007 UnitedHealth Premium® Specialty Care Center designations for Cardiac Surgery, Interventional Cardiology, and Spine Surgery
- 2008 Best Nursing Team runner up for 'Advanced for Nurses'



SAN RAMON
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

6001 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon
800.284.2878 www.sanramonmedctr.com