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www.PleasantonWeekly.com

Green is go

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Coming soon: Baseball on Bernal

First phase of new community park breaks ground on Bernal property

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NOTICE TO OUR READERS

In a June 20 advertisement for MD Spa, a statement was made regarding the sale of Essence Medespa in Pleasanton. After investigation it was determined that the owners of Essence Medespa have not sold the business nor do they have any intention of selling the medical spa. We regret this misinformation was published.



Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

TV30 cuts make Weekly's coverage more critical

Time will tell if the four mayors who voted to ax TV30's "Live at 4" news show, the Tri-Valley's only local television news programming, did the right thing for their constituents. As a cost-cutting measure, it was an easy decision. TV30's annual budget, restricted by a fixed-fee collection arrangement with Comcast, has been relatively static in recent years at about \$430,000. Sponsorships, grants and some production work added enough to support a \$550,000 annual budget, which the mayors just approved for fiscal 2008-09 that started July 1. TV30 was woefully overspending its budget, with the result that the mayors of the four cities the station serves—Jennifer Hosterman of Pleasanton, Marshall Kamena of Livermore, H. Abram Wilson of San Ramon and Janet Lockhart of Dublin—had to ask their city councils for emergency appropriations totaling \$250,000 in 2007 and again earlier this year to keep TV30 on the air. Runaway spending at TV30 by two executive directors who came and went in as many years as much of the problem, including architectural drawings for a new studio building, which was never built, new software and broadcast equipment and a leased van. Although the improvements helped TV30 move into the digital age with more on-site reporting, costs soared to well over \$250,000 for each of the last two years. Financial analysts showed the mayors that by cutting TV30 news, they could wipe out the budget excess in one swipe and balance the new budget.

Last week, the on-air news staff headed by anchor Tom Morrison said goodbye. Yesterday, Kevin Wing, the station's news director who the mayors named as interim executive director last November, also left. For the first time in 20 years, there's no television news station or service covering the Tri-Valley. Of course, some live programs will continue, including the council meetings in the four cities,

several local school board meetings and the "Mayors Report."

Perhaps the biggest loss for TV30 is Wing, himself. A creative, talented writer and producer, he has an eye for news and had dispatched reporters and camera crews to key events in the Tri-Valley that the San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose stations ignored. Having worked at those stations, he knows the mindset of big city news producers who focus on population centers, major business districts and metropolitan arts, theater and events. It takes the Castlewood murders or a fiery crash on the Sunol Grade to move reporters and broadcast equipment to our area. Add to this the staff reductions at the two regional daily newspapers here, and it's clear, as Wing points out, that the print editions and Web sites of the Pleasanton Weekly, Danville Weekly and our group's newest print and online publication, Tri Valley Views, have increased opportunities and responsibilities to cover and report on all aspects of news and features in the Valley. We're also moving more rapidly into video news reports as part of our online editions.

Of course, for the four cities that can collectively spend a quarter-million-dollars on any number of services and "things," the \$63,000 it would have cost each city to keep TV30 news on the air seems almost insignificant. Sadly, though, there's been little interest. The cities, mayors, and we here at the Weekly have received few phone calls, emails or letters moaning the loss of TV30 news. None of the four-city mayors went to TV30 studios last week for the farewell broadcast and somber party that followed. Wing planned to turn out the lights at the station's small studio behind the Pleasanton school district headquarters last night and head to his home in Danville. Fortunately, however, ABC News has been watching, and has hired Wing to start handling Northern California news assignments for the network in mid-July. I wish him well. ■

Pleasanton Real Estate News



by Gerarda Stocking

THE INVALUABLE CMA

A CMA is a competitive marketing analysis. Those who are putting their homes on the market, assuming they are working with an excellent real estate professional, will spend time carefully studying such an analysis—looking at recent sales prices for homes like theirs, at the condition of the homes that sold, at the motivations of the sellers involved, at the amenities and special features in the homes. It is by poring over such a report that sellers, with their agent's assistance, arrive at an asking price that reflects current market conditions accurately and, as studies have shown, brings in the fastest sale with the best profit.

Okay, what about buyers? With increasing regularity, real estate professionals are helping buyers find and make a viable offer on the home that fits their needs and desires. Then they will look at a CMA before deciding what to offer the seller. This is one of the reasons that the seller who has asked a reasonable price for his or her home is likely to get it. The buyer has looked at the clear evidence that the home has been well-priced.

It is also one of the reasons that the seller who has decided to test the waters with a price too high to be justified by a careful study of recent sales is very often doomed to wait longer than otherwise for an offer—because buyers don't take his price seriously—and generally when an offer is finally placed, it will be as low as the seller's asking price was high. An accurate CMA is invaluable on all sides of a transaction. For assistance call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

Gerarda Stocking is the Owner/Broker of Stocking Realty.

Man stabbed at his house by uninvited guest

A 22-year-old Pleasanton man is recovering, listed in stable condition, after sustaining three stab wounds Saturday at his house party.

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About the Cover

Construction crews operate heavy machinery to make way for the new Bernal Community Park. The project, situated east of I-680 between Valley and Bernal avenues, is the first step toward development of the Bernal property. The park is scheduled to be open for public use in the fall season of 2009.

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Streetwise

Q: With all the “buzz” about carbon footprints, do you think Americans are truly ready to make drastic life-style changes in order to “go green”?

Asked Downtown



Kate McPherson
Private Banker

Californians are more ready than the rest of the country. We are more environmentally conscious. The rest of the country? No. It's going to have to get much worse. People will have to see drastic measures taken before they heed the warnings. This is the land of consumption. We are spoiled and won't change until we are forced.

Pat Dvoracek
Homemaker

I don't think we are really ready and I don't know what it will take. In talking to friends around here, they are just going to suck it up and keep driving. Our public transit system is not conducive to mass usage. Individuals here and there are thinking about it but as a national consciousness, it will take a long time.



Marcy Johnson
Commercial Property Manager

I think things will have to get a lot worse. I am not talking about myself personally or people I know or California. I think generally, as Americans, we live in a little cocoon and don't start changing until it gets really tough. As a nation, we need to find other energy sources. We all need to become more conscious.

Ken Hartmen
Controller

Things will have to get worse. Gas at \$6 to \$7 dollars per gallon and then once credit card ceilings start to happen and people can't charge money they don't have, things will get tough and we'll wake up. We need to think about consuming less and start to change our habits.



Hans Telm
Solutions Architect

We are talking about it a lot but doing little to make a difference. We need to look to the European countries for the model. America is a large country. If someone makes a mess, it has little impact. People aren't as concerned. If you go to Europe, you won't see this kind of mess. People are raised with a consciousness about conservation.

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Have a Streetwise question? E-mail: editor@PleasantonWeekly.com
 Compiled by Cybele Ryan

Newsfront

News Digest

Seniors can sign up for 580/680 Games

Seniors from Pleasanton, Dublin, San Ramon and Danville are preparing for the inaugural 580/680 Senior Games, held in late September. Those ages 50 and older interested in joining in the friendly competition can sign up at the participating senior center sites or by calling the Senior Games Hotline at 973-3255. The competitions include tennis, swimming, softball, bowling and ballroom dancing.

Summer Wine Stroll tickets for sale

Tickets are on sale for the Pleasanton Downtown Association's (PDA) eighth annual Downtown Summer Wine Stroll. Participants can browse downtown shops and sample wines from the Livermore Valley from 6 to 9 p.m. July 17. The event has sold out early in past years. Tickets are \$25 per person in advance and can be purchased at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St.; Clover Creek, 670 Main St.; Studio 7 Fine Arts, 400 Main St.; and the PDA office, 830 Main St., Ste. A. To learn more, call 484-2199 or visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

Award-winning writer to read at library

Peter Beagle, author of "The Last Unicorn," will present a reading and talk about his career at 2 p.m. July 13 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. His "Two Hearts" won him the best novelette in the Hugo and Nebula awards. He also wrote the teleplay for an episode of, "Star Trek: The Next Generation." For more information about library events, visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library.

County fair ends Sunday

The last day to enjoy the Alameda County Fair is Sunday. Included in the final events that day is country crooner Steve Holy, plant sales, horse racing, a hypnotist show, cooking demonstrations, rides and more. To see a schedule of events for the fair, visit www.alamedacounty-fair.com.

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

Voters to face 2 hillside initiatives Nov. 4

Council votes 3-2 to counter citizens' group measure

by Jeb Bing

Voters will be asked to choose between two ballot initiatives Nov. 4 that could restrict hillside and housing development in Pleasanton.

The first, an initiative supported by former councilwoman Kay Ayala and the citizens coalition she has championed called Save Pleasanton's Hills would amend the city's General Plan to block future residential and commercial development on hillsides with slopes greater than 25 percent. It would also prevent development within 100 vertical feet of a ridgeline and seek to reinforce the city's voter-mandated housing cap of 29,000 units. It would require all units equipped with a kitchen and a bathroom with a toilet, sink and shower or tub to be categorized as housing units under the housing cap limit.

The second initiative voters

will face will be a City Council-supported initiative that would reaffirm the 1996 General Plan policies for ridgeline protection and growth control and would set into place procedures to tighten hillside development on a site by site basis and where necessary. Considered a competing initiative to the one Ayala is backing, the council measure was approved in a 3-2 vote after a two-hour public hearing. It also will contain a provision that if it gains more votes than the citizens' initiative, it will be the only winning initiative.

Both initiatives will be before the City Council again July 15 when City Attorney Michael Roush will have ballot language ready for each measure along with a plan for having arguments for and against each measure written in time for the ballot packet to be submitted to the County Registrar of Voters by the Aug. 8 deadline.

Roush said those measures are being drafted now and could be ready for review on Wednesday.

The Save Pleasanton's Hills initiative was the result of a signature-gathering campaign led by Ayala, who succeeded in obtaining more than the 3,700 signatures from registered Pleasanton voters that the county registrar's office requires for citizen initiatives to qualify for the ballot. Ayala's effort coincided with an earlier initiative she proposed to overturn the City Council's action last fall that approved the Oak Grove development plan. That plan calls for 51 custom homes to be built on acreage atop Kottinger Ranch with an agreement with developers to give nearly 500 acres of adjacent undeveloped property that they own to the city for use as open space, trails and parkland.

Although the signature-gathering effort was successful, with many of

the same registered voters signing both initiative proposals, the group's Oak Grove petition was later nullified by an Alameda County Superior Court judge. The group has filed an appeal of that decision.

Although the proposed hillside ordinance could block Oak Grove on the basis that it would be built on a ridgeline in the city's southeast hills, it would have no effect if the appeal now under consideration fails. That decision, before the First District Court of Appeal, isn't expected until sometime next year.

The group's hillside initiative could have more far-reaching impact than on Oak Grove. It could possibly block developments planned by Greenbriar Homes in Lund Ranch 2 and the undeveloped ranchland owned by Al Spotorno, both east of Sunol Boulevard and

(continued on page 7)



A new traffic signal at Main and Ray streets downtown will begin operating Monday, expected to lessen some of the backup.

New traffic light going in at Main Street

Signal expected to improve flow of traffic downtown

Starting Monday, the city will activate a new traffic signal that is expected to alleviate some of the usual downtown backup drivers are familiar with.

What's called a "protected/permissive" left turn light has been installed at the intersection of Main and Ray streets, adjacent to the Rose Hotel and Oasis Grille.

Drivers heading southbound into downtown who want to make a left turn onto Ray Street will do so on a green arrow. When all southbound left turn traffic has made turns or when the timing reaches its

maximum, a yellow arrow will come on, then it will turn off. Drivers will still be able to make a left on Ray after that point, but they will have to wait until it's clear—the way the intersection currently works.

The current signal configuration tends to back traffic up to the train tracks while left-turn drivers wait for a break in northbound traffic and for pedestrians to cross the street. Since Main Street is only a two-lane road, drivers who want to go straight have to wait for cars in front of them to turn left.

—Janet Pelletier

And they're off...to Japan

Four Pleasanton teens to present solutions to global problems, meet with world leaders

by Janet Pelletier

Four Pleasanton teens are off in Japan this week, meeting with leaders of eight countries and presenting their solutions to such issues as global warming, child poverty and infectious diseases.

The teens, Manogna Manne, Avani Jariwala, Jamie Velling and Matthias McCoy-Thompson, all students at Amador Valley High School, were selected recently by UNICEF to represent the United States at the Junior 8 Summit, held in Japan this year. The J8 Summit is a youth event linked to the G8 Summit, enabling teens ages 13-17 to get involved in topics that concern G8 countries and the global community as a whole. The team, which is being accompanied by Amador world history teacher Chris Murphy, left Pleasanton on Monday. They have an action-packed 10-day schedule there that also includes some sightseeing.

During their trip, the team, which calls itself "Volens et potens," meaning "willing and able," will meet with seven teams representing Barbados, Cote d'Ivoire, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal and South Africa. On Monday, the Volens et potens will meet G8 leaders, including President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush.

The team will be giving presentations on the topics of global warming and climate change, poverty and development, and child survival, infectious diseases, HIV/AIDS. Manne said she found out about the J8 opportunity because of her interest in working with UNICEF. The group researched topics based on the contest requirements and sent in an essay and video clip. During spring break, they found out they were in the top 16 and in May, they were told they had been picked to represent the U.S. Manne, Jariwala and McCoy-Thompson are in Murphy's world history class and Velling is in Ryan Templeman's

(continued on page 7)

School district files objections

by Janet Pelletier

The school district has filed objections to a judge's recent ruling in favor of Signature Properties over the construction of the city's 10th and final elementary school.

Through its attorneys, Stubbs & Leone of Walnut Creek, the Pleasanton Unified School District said it has objections to each of the 15 points listed in Judge George C. Hernandez's tentative ruling. Primarily, the district said it doesn't believe it should have to pay for design costs of the school, which Signature paid for, because the ruling declares the contract void and illegal.

Citing a 1942 Supreme Court case, *Miller v. McKinnon*, the district said "The illegal (amended cooperative fee agreement to build Neal Elementary School) for all purposes and (Signature) cannot recover the almost \$500,000 they claim to have

spent as part of their performance of the (agreement), nor can the district recover the \$4.1 million it expended to 'provide' (infrastructure for) the site," the objection continues.

In addition, the district said because the judge determined that the contract between the two parties is void since the project wasn't put out for public bidding, that Signature "cannot recover any 'damage,' 'restitution' or any other monetary relief from the district, including attorney's fees and costs."

In its last claim on the issue, the district said if it were to pay for attorney's fees for an invalid contract, it would be violating a constitutional prohibition against the gift of public funds. In other objections, the district made a case for striking 14 of 15 points of the judge's tentative ruling from the record in an effort to preserve its right to a future jury trial, should it decide to appeal. If the judge has determined that the

contract was illegal and void, the district said the other findings aren't relevant and are out of the scope of the judge's purview.

"Here, this court, having determined that no legal contract exists, is then without the power to interpret and pass judgment on that non-existent contract," the objection states. "As such, the court's remaining findings become immaterial surplusage (sic) that should not be made."

District spokeswoman Myla Grasso said the district has not made a decision yet as to whether they will appeal the ruling. A hearing date, called a case management conference, has been scheduled for July 18 at the Fremont Hall of Justice.

"We're expecting a final written decision by the judge probably early next week, so the case management conference will be to discuss what's going to happen next based on that final decision from the judge," Grasso said. ■

District passes on investigation

Board decides not to spend taxpayer dollars on another court case

by Emily Atwood

School board members have decided not to take legal action against longtime trustee Pat Kernan, whose residency has been under scrutiny.

The vote was 4-0 with Kernan out of the room and not voting. The board members referred to their recent legal battle with Signature Properties in saying they didn't want to use taxpayer dollars for another court case. Harold Freiman, a lawyer from Lozano Smith who represents the district, investigated the residency claims and compiled a report in May, which found Kernan to be a Pleasanton resident. The Alameda County District Attorney's office was also asked to do an investigation and found no criminal behavior.

Questions regarding his residency were brought up on the Pleasanton Weekly's Town Square forum, where parent and school activist Julie Testa and anonymous users posted web links connecting Kernan to Camino, Calif., which is east of Sacramento. In response to the online chatter, Kernan told the Weekly April 7 that he considers his apartment on Andrews Drive in Pleasanton to be his permanent residence where he also runs his law practice. Myla Grasso, school district spokeswoman, said April 29 that the residence in Camino is a vacation home.

The postings continued as Kernan was absent from school board meetings, including a May 1 special

meeting where the board agenda shows him phoning in from Camino, although some occasions have been due to hip surgery recovery.

Testa requested the item be put on an agenda and it was discussed at the June 25 meeting. At the beginning of the item, Kernan said he should not only abstain from discussion, but would leave the room until the item was finished. Testa presented personal research in response to the lawyer's findings to show, in her opinion, that Kernan was a resident of Camino and not Pleasanton. Some of her arguments were that he could not have been summoned as a juror in El Dorado County were he not a resident, the DMV can't confirm his residency and a personal check for filing fees dated Aug. 10, 2006 showed a Camino address. She also said that the district should not have confidence in Freiman, who she claims gave unsound advice in the PUSD v. Signature case.

Kernan's wife Marcia, whose primary residency is listed in Camino, spoke in defense of her husband and his Pleasanton residence.

"I say goodbye to Pat Monday and see him on Friday," she said of their



Pat Kernan

living arrangement. "A good 90 percent of his clients are down here."

"Pat's been here for 12 years and he may have missed two to four meetings all together," she added, not counting the meetings he missed due to recent hip surgeries. "Integrity—no one knows it better than Pat Kernan."

After the DA's decision, Senior Deputy District Attorney Jeff Stark said the investigation could continue through a quo warranto, which is a legal opinion of the California Attorney General. At the meeting, Testa said she wanted an opinion from the attorney general as it would be unbiased. Her understanding was that governmental bodies could ask for an opinion without going through quo warranto and without cost. The board, however, said if they were to vote against Kernan, they would be going against the recommendations of their attorney and the DA, confirming they don't believe Kernan lives in Pleasanton and committing taxpayer dollars to hire an attorney and proceed with a lawsuit against him.

Jim Ott, board president, said at the meeting that "a quo warranto action is designed to provide members of the public a means to remove an individual from office who is not a resident of the town or county they represent."

In their decision, they welcomed members of the community to band together to absorb the costs if they felt further investigation was needed. ■

Veteran officers promoted

Pleasanton police officers Mark Reimer and Robert Leong were promoted to the rank of sergeant recently, 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 inves-

tigations. He and wife Janet 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. ■



Mark Reimer



Robert Leong

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Summit

(continued from page 5)

world history class at Amador.

"I've always been interested in the world and world issues," Manne said when asked why she wanted to participate in the J8.

Vellinger said her interest in world affairs was due to her parents, who took her family to Baja California to give humanitarian aid in orphanages.

Vellinger said she thinks the summit will be "a great way to get our ideas out there and have an impact on the world."

While a trip like this would be costly, fortunately UNICEF, Japanese hotels and participating countries are footing the teams' expenses.

For the past few months, the team has been preparing for their lofty mission. While they will be assessing the topics' problems, they'll also be presenting their solu-



Janet Pelletier

Amador world history teacher Chris Murphy is accompanying students Jamie Vellinger, Manogna Manne, Avani Jarwala and Matthias McCoy-Thompson at the J8 Summit.

tions, something the team agrees is extremely important to any future change. G8 leaders will listen to the teams' ideas to decide whether they would be interested in forwarding

them. They've also traveled to New York to receive training on cultural traditions as well as how to handle questions from the world media. ■

Initiative

(continued from page 5)

in the vicinity of Sycamore Creek Way and the Happy Valley community. Smaller land parcels west of Foothill Road also could be affected, although the citizens' initiative would exempt hillside development restrictions for 10-units or fewer home construction projects.

Lance Smith, Greenbriar's general counsel, told the council that citizens' initiative is vague and would unfairly affect projects such as Greenbriar's that are already under way.

"Given the vague and confusing language in this proposed initiatives, it surely will result in litigation that will cost everyone a lot of money," he said. "I'm asking the council to put something together that is without all these loopholes to address the concerns."

Also questioned was the impact the citizens' initiative would have on plans to build a mile-long bypass road on the Spotorno property that would meet a longstanding city promise to move motorists headed to the Callippe Preserve Golf Course off Alisal Street, which Happy Valley residents consider their neighborhood road. Under terms of pending agree-

ments with Greenbriar for developing these sites, Greenbriar would pay part of all of the cost of building the bypass road. If Greenbriar is blocked from building the homes, however, it's unlikely the developer would build the bypass road.

Karla Brown, a co-author of the initiative with Ayala, said roadways such as the proposed bypass would be exempted from the 25-percent slope ban.

Two members of the City Council—Matt Sullivan and Cindy McGovern—urged their colleagues to let the citizens' initiative go to voters on Nov. 4 without a competing measure from the city. However, Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and Council members Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Jerry Thorne disagreed. Voting in the majority to write a competing ordinance, they said the citizens' initiative had not been researched sufficiently, could cause fiscal harm to both the city and property owners and would likely be challenged in the courts for months and years to come if it won voter approval.

"If this measure passes, we will have little understanding of the language," Cook-Kallio said. "The only remedy will be litigating it or to support another initiative with another citizens' vote to change it. This would be a bad law and it lacks

any environmental safeguards."

Thorne said many of the constituents he's talked to weren't aware that the council has on its priority list consideration of a hillside protection ordinance similar to what the citizens' group is advocating.

"This initiative is too flawed to be corrected and it would become law entirely as written," he said. "When people understand this, they want a corroborative approach first, one that is based on engineering data, geo-technical information, with specific ridges and ridgelines identified and one that looks at the impact on schools and the housing cap."

He said efforts to write a hillside protection ordinance should be made in a series of public meetings, not by several authors who wrote their initiative and then collected signatures of city streets without any public hearing to discuss their plan. Hosterman agreed.

"We know for a fact that the citizens' initiative is filled with language that is troublesome, and we also know that should the voters approve it, we can't change that language," Hosterman said. "That's why we need a clarifying measure on the ballot to make sure voters have a choice in making this important decision. It's in the best interests of the people." ■

Take Us Along



Don't 'ruin' my shot

Don and Lorna Kruse stand amidst the grounds of the Parthenon on top of the Acropolis in Athens, Greece.

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The outline of new baseball fields can be seen in the dirt of the Bernal property.

COMING SOON: BASEBALL ON BERNAL

First phase of new community park under way on Bernal property

by Elyssa Thome

Looking east from Interstate 680 near the Bernal Avenue exit, you can see the former hay fields beginning to take a new shape. While the land is brown now, it will soon be home to another green Pleasanton community park. The first phase of a three-phase project to create Bernal Community Park began in late February and is starting to show.

"They've moved a lot of dirt out there," said Jim Wolfe, director of Parks and Community Services.

When the dust has settled, phase one will entail the creation of three baseball fields along with a variety of other amenities. Two fields will be lighted and the third will be a grass field suitable for baseball, as well as other activities such as kite flying. There also will be benches, a central area between the fields, barbecues, storage facilities, public restrooms, parking for about 100 cars and an analemmatic sundial, which gives the date as well as time.

The baseball diamonds will help to accommodate a growing need in Pleasanton. According to Wolfe, scheduling has presented a problem in recent years with the growing popularity of PONY baseball.

"The little leagues were first in line," Wolfe said. "Then PONY baseball came in and we didn't have enough room."

Wolfe said that when the park is finished, the baseball programs will get together and redistribute use in order to find the best solution for everyone. Scheduling on the fields will still be handled by Parks and Community Services.

According to Wolfe, construction crews have been able to stay on pace this season without many rain delays. As such, most of the grading and underground construction (such as storm drainage, sanitary sewer, water and electrical lines) has been completed.

"So far everything is running smoothly," said Mike Fulford, city landscape architect. "It's running beautifully."

If the project stays on schedule, it should



The sign outside of the construction site tells onlookers what's coming.

take a total of 18 months for construction and maintenance to be completed. Current projections show the park will be available for public use in August or September 2009.

According to Fulford, the people working on all aspects of this park have important professional, and Pleasanton, experience. For example, construction manager Jim Gotcher just finished the restoration of the Veterans Memorial Building downtown.

"He has some pretty special credentials and has a history of getting projects done on time and under budget," Fulford said.

Also, this phase of the park is being built by ValleyCrest Landscape Development. While the company builds across the country and even globally, its Northern California branch is located in Pleasanton. ValleyCrest has built a number of projects in Pleasanton over the years, including a similar project completed almost 20 years ago.

"They built the last phase of the Pleasanton

Sports [and Recreation] Park in 1989 and now they are building the first stage of this one," Fulford said. "We have a great relationship with them."

The Sports Park, located on Hopyard Road and Parkside Drive, is twice the size of the future 50-acre sports complex in Bernal Community Park and features mostly multi-use fields, while Bernal will have single-use fields.

Phase one will include 13 acres of the overall sports park and only includes baseball fields, but the finished park will cater to other sports as well. According to the Bernal Community Park Master Plan, there will eventually be three lighted baseball diamonds and one informal baseball field, one lighted football/lacrosse field and three lighted soccer fields, including a small stadium.

According to Fulford, the single-use fields will help maintenance crews to better care for the fields.

"Our maintenance crew really likes them because the fields will rest between heavy uses," Fulford said. "The crew can go in and aerate and fertilize. That's something we have real trouble doing at the Sports Park."

Fulford said that this is difficult at the Sports Park because heavy use during soccer season is followed by heavy use during baseball season. Because the baseball fields and soccer fields will be completely separate in the new Bernal Park, this will not be an issue.

Unlike most park projects which have received partial or total funding from developers as homes are built nearby, the new sports fields, roadways, parking lots and water and sewer lines are the city's responsibility.

"Normally when I build a park there is infrastructure available," he said. "Roads, sewers, power lines. But that's not the case here. We are starting with a blank canvas."

As this is the first of three phases, the crew is installing the utilities to support the entire build-out of the project. According to Fulford, this makes the roughly \$8-million project more expensive than future phases are likely to be.

A new road being built into the baseball park is actually Pleasanton Avenue extended. That street now ends at Bernal Avenue and won't be fully built out to connect there until the rest of the new sports park is completed. Until then, access to the 100-car parking lot will be from the new section of Pleasanton Avenue that will open off Valley Avenue.

The baseball fields under construction are the first development on the Bernal property, a 318-acre site that was given to the city free of charge by Greenbriar Homes in 2000. It was part of the 510-acre Bernal property that Greenbriar and associates purchased eight years ago for \$126 million from the property's longtime owner, the city of San Francisco.

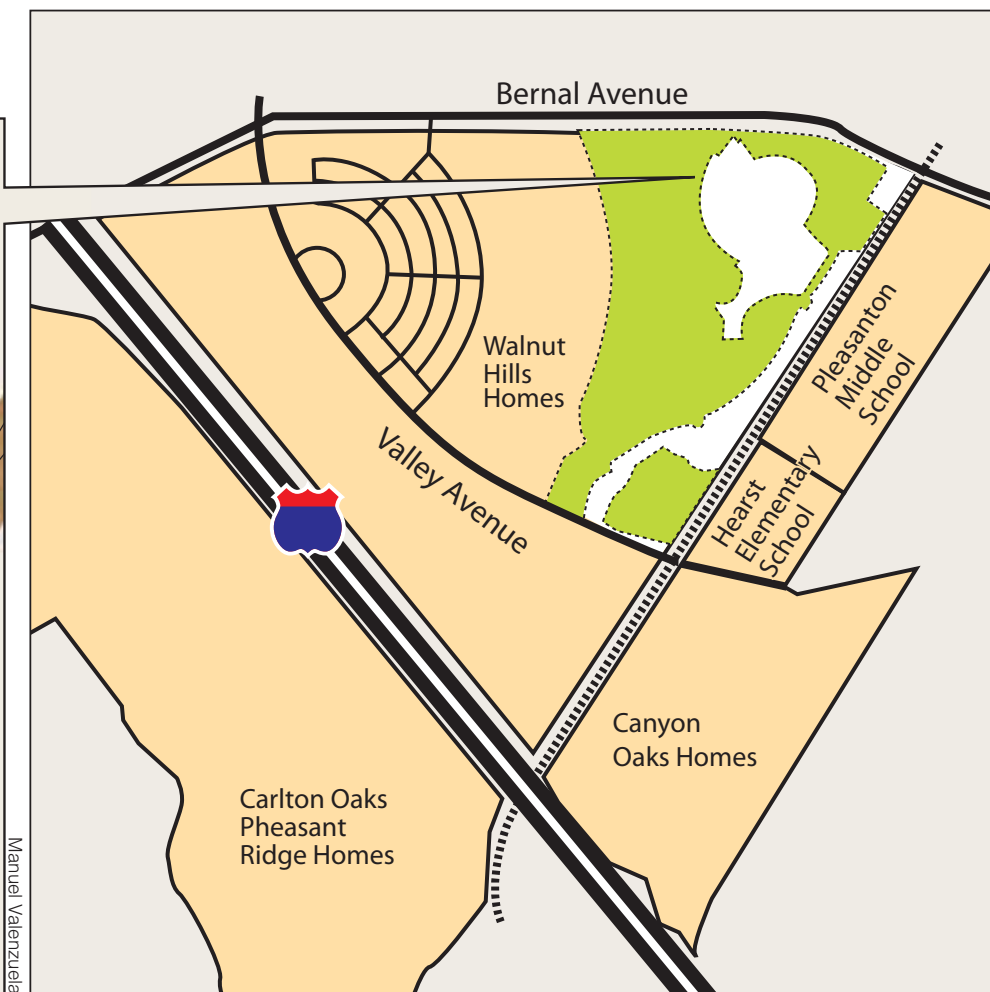
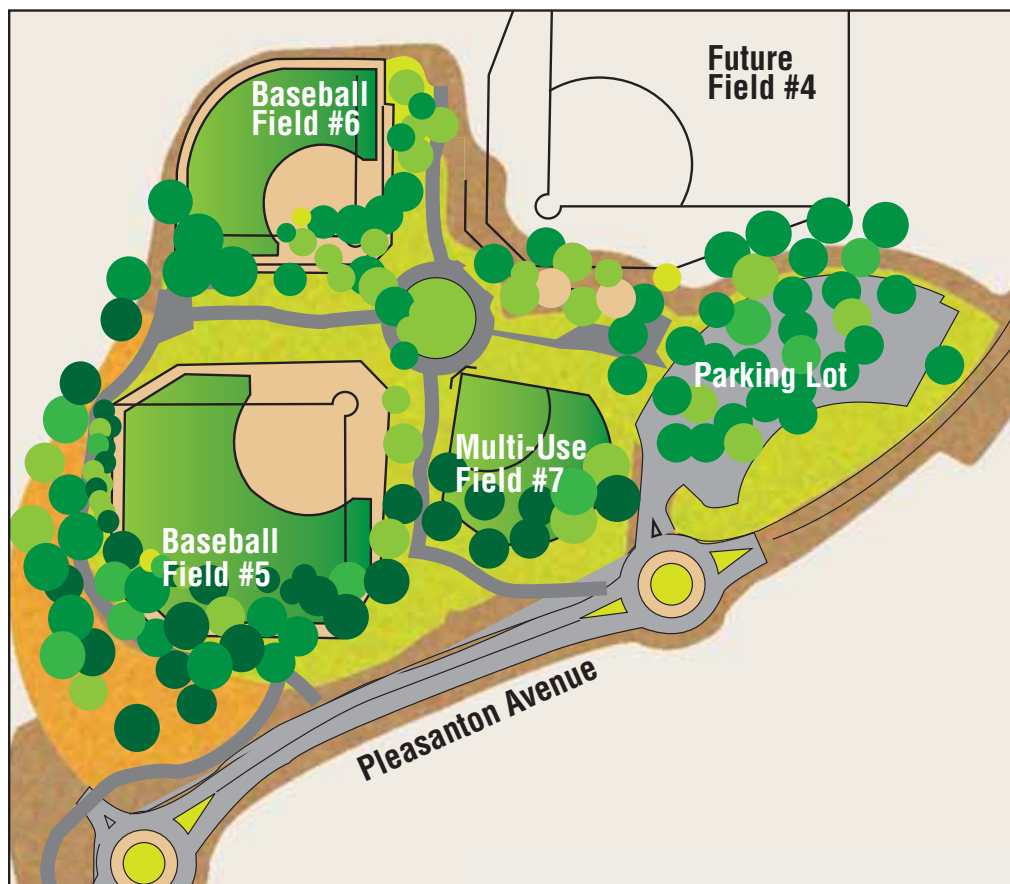
As part of the same agreement that Pleasanton approved, the developers were allowed to build 581 homes and apartments on the Bernal site on both sides of I-680. The city also approved a 37-acre, eight-building, four-story office park along 680. The owner, South Bay Construction, is now planning to develop



Ellyssa Thorne

PHASE 1

When completed, phase I will include two lighted baseball diamonds, one multi-use field, and parking for around 100 cars, among other amenities.



Manuel Valenzuela

it with only seven office structures but would add a new Safeway "Lifestyle" supermarket at the corner of Valley and Bernal.

In the last eight years, city task forces, commissions and the City Council have spent hundreds of hours and paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in consulting fees to plan the park, which will be Pleasanton's largest and most expensive.

Among the amenities considered for Bernal, besides the 50-acre sports park, are a cultural arts center, 4-H club demonstration farm, a Grand Meadow that will harbor native plants and trees, miles of hiking trails and small lakes and meandering streams. Those were listed as future uses in a so-called Illustrative Plan that voters approved in 2006.

Although approved, voters will have to wait before much else gets built. So far, the council has found funds only to start the sports park, although the council is now earmarking funds each year toward completing the rest of Bernal.

One amenity that won't go on Bernal: more houses or apartments. Measure V, approved

overwhelmingly in 2002, prohibits any more living units on the property, including senior housing that was initially proposed.

As part of developing Bernal, Fulford said the city is committed to meeting a variety of needs, as well as creating a park that is also a good neighbor.

A planned open forested area, for example, will be next to the 50 acres of athletic fields. It has been designed to feature a variety of native California plants and trees that will also serve as an 800-foot buffer between the athletic fields and nearby housing to prevent light spillover and sound issues.

To address other sensitive land uses, the master plan includes a commitment to environmental sustainability. According to Fulford, the city of Pleasanton already uses green building practices, and will continue to do so with the new park.

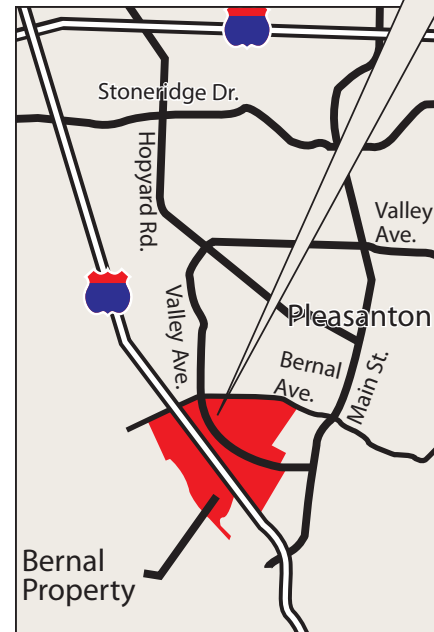
"Even before it became fashionable, the city's parks maintenance division was already well ahead of industry and other municipalities when it came to the creation and maintenance of its landscapes," Fulford said.

"The city recently adopted the Alameda County Stop Waste Bay Friendly Landscape Guidelines, a guide to sustainable green landscape practices."

According to Fulford, it has not been difficult to conform to the guidelines because the city already meets most of them. For example, the city pays for water use, so water efficiency makes business sense in addition to environmental sense. Also, the city recycles green waste and uses it as mulch to insulate the ground surface, reducing irrigation needs and weed growth.

The second phase is also getting under way as the city prepares to select consultants for the coming project. According to Fulford, the San Francisco-based firm that designed phase one, M.D. Fotheringham Landscape Architects, Inc., will be strongly considered, but no decisions have been made yet. The plan should be ready for bidding early next year.

"There is a concept plan so the second phase will be fairly easy to design," Fulford said. "Selection is happening this month." ■



Manuel Valenzuela

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Opinion

Editorial

Park district opts for taxes; school district opts out

Superintendent John Casey wisely took consideration of a possible parcel tax off the school board's table last week, saying that this year's budget shortfall for Pleasanton will not be as bad as feared and that economic concerns make this a poor time to ask voters for more money. We agree, which is also why we're perplexed by a \$500-million bond measure that the East Bay Regional Park board agreed to float in November. With rising gasoline prices, turbulence in the housing market, uncertainty in the general economy and job market and a feisty presidential campaign now under way that is focused on all of these issues, it seems an odd time to seek voter approval for more parkland. Perhaps the park district board, which voted 7-0 in favor of placing the bond measure on the ballot in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, eyed the results of bond and parcel tax measures that went before voters last June 3 and thought it was worth a roll of the dice to try for a win on Nov. 4, when record voter turnouts are projected. After all, Bay Area school districts fared reasonably well in the 16 school measures, including 10 parcel taxes, all of which required two-thirds support just as the park bond measure and Pleasanton school parcel tax would need. But that was nearly two months ago. Gas prices, economic worries and housing problems have gotten worse, much worse since then. Casey believes it's too dicey to expect voter approval this year; the park board believes it has a good chance of winning because voters will recognize that with better parks, they won't have to drive to distant locations. But with the bond measure's two most expensive projects aimed at finishing the East Shore State Park in the Richmond area and creating a new regional park at the old Concord Naval Weapons Station, the Regional Park District's appeal to the Tri-Valley will be a stretch at best.

By putting any consideration of a parcel tax aside for this year, Casey has a more realistic approach to voter appeal. It's just not the right time, he told the board, although the proposal could come back next year if there are new and more onerous cuts in the state education budget. As it is, the governor's May budget revise leaves most funding intact, although Pleasanton will see some restraints, but nothing major. Casey no doubt looked at the same June 3 results that buoyed the bond measure advocates in the park district and saw things differently. In Alameda, for example, a see-saw battle had that city's school district watching its proposed levy of an emergency tax of \$120 per residential parcel pressing back and forth election night just short and then just over the two-thirds majority vote it needed for passage. Finally on June 29 after all provisional, absentee and ballot box votes had been counted, the tax levy was approved by the barest of margins. Nearby San Ramon was not so lucky, with voters rejecting Measure D that would have extended and increased the current parcel tax to support school programs and services. In 2004, voters approved a \$90-per-parcel tax which expires June 30, 2009. A similar proposal had been defeated two years earlier.

Voters approved school bond and tax measures June 3 in Hayward, Antioch and Palo Alto, as well as a whopping 70 percent "yes" vote in San Francisco for a parcel tax that will go mostly to boost teacher salaries. But voter concerns over the economy were also factors in the defeat of parcel taxes in Pacifica, the Gravenstein Union School District in Sonoma County and three local districts, also in Sonoma County.

As for rolling the dice based on these June results and continued economic concerns, it looks to us as if Casey made the right call to hold off for another—and better—time while the park district will face a challenge to convince enough voters that more parks are worth the price.

Code of ethics

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

Letters

District should get back to basics

Dear Editor,

Your newspaper has covered the debacle of the Pleasanton Unified School District v. Signature Properties lawsuit very thoroughly during the past few months. I am a citizen of Pleasanton and as a result of the PUSD's incompetence, I along with all the other citizens of Pleasanton, am liable to pay possibly \$5-6 million for nothing.

It is my belief that the PUSD board should fire all members of the administration who pursued this frivolous lawsuit and, after this is done, all members of the Board of Education who had anything to do with this outrageous legal blunder should resign for gross negligence of duty. Then we have to get back to basics—namely, educate our children to the best of our ability, follow the rules, and not to try to be cute. As for Cindy Galbo's comment, "We're a little disappointed...."—that is the understatement of all time. She probably is not a taxpayer in Pleasanton.

Francis Mahoney, Pleasanton

Mayor didn't consult residents on votes

Dear Editor,

At the U.S. Conference of Mayors recent annual meeting in Miami, is it to be assumed that the mayors represented the views of the people of their cities?

I wasn't consulted by Ms. Hosterman. The resolutions she signed, especially the anti-ANWR drilling agreement, definitely do

not represent my opinion on the subject. (We need to utilize our own considerable oil resources.) When, where and how can the people of Pleasanton let their ideas be known and considered? Do we have a voice on these matters?

Pauline Coe, Pleasanton

Rail corridor fact incorrect

Dear Editor,

In your parking lot story, ("City buys rail corridor for \$7.5M," June 20, News, page 5) you mentioned that the corridor had been used by both Southern Pacific and Northern Pacific. Guess what? The former Northern Pacific's nearest approach to the Bay Area is about 800 miles away. Fire the fact checker.

Graham Claytor, Pleasanton

Your Turn

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

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

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Community Pulse



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

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

Planning Commission

Wednesday, July 9, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

• PUD 72, Jerome and Laura Raney

Application for Planned Unit Development rezoning of two parcels totaling approximately 51 acres from the RM 1,500 (Multiple Family Residential) District to the PUD HDR (Planned Unit Development – High Density Residential) District and development plan approval to construct three new residences at 4715 and 4693 Augustine Street.

• PDR 717, Tarlochan Sidhu

Application for design review approval to construct an approximately 4,716 square foot two story single family home on an approximately 18,285 square foot site located at 6047 Sycamore Terrace.

• PDR 780/PCUP-228, Ben Stoller/Centro Properties Group

Application for design review approval for modifications to an existing building and for site design changes and for a conditional use permit to operate a grocery store at 3903 Santa Rita Road in the Rose Pavilion.

• PCUP-222, Sherman Balch/SuperFranks

Application for a conditional use permit to serve wine and beer in conjunction with food in an existing indoor recreation facility located at 5341 Owens Court.

• PAP 122, Jeffrey and Louise Green/ Green Living Trust, Appellants (PADR 761, AT&T, Applicant)

Appeal of the Zoning Administrator's approval of an application for design review to install an AT&T Project Lightspeed cabinet at the southeast corner of Rheem Drive and Olivia Court.

• PUD 74, Ponderosa Homes

Application for Planned Unit Development (PUD) development plan to construct 110 detached single-family homes for residents aged 55 years and older at the public school option/Medium Density Residential-senior housing site located at 1 Reimers Drive in the Ironwood Development. Also consider the Negative Declaration prepared for the project.

Parks & Recreation Commission

Thursday, July 10, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

• Please visit our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us to view the agenda for this meeting

Civic Arts Commission

Monday, July 7, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

• Please visit our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us to view the agenda for this meeting

Library Commission

• The Library commission meeting of July 10, 2008 has been cancelled. The next scheduled commission meeting will be held on August 7, 2008.

Youth Commission

• The Youth commission meeting of July 9, 2008 has been cancelled. The next scheduled commission meeting will be held on September 10, 2008.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Job Announcements

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

- Director of Parks and 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
- 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

Pleasanton man charged with domestic violence, attempted murder

A 51-year-old man was arrested on charges of attempted murder and domestic violence for allegedly beating his wife at their Pleasanton home early Saturday morning, according to Pleasanton police.

Shortly before 4 a.m., the couple's 8-year-old son was awoken by his parents fighting, police said.

When the boy saw his father beating his mother,

he ran from their home in the 6000 block of Corte Nuevo to a neighbor's house for help, according to police.

The 44-year-old neighbor went next door and found the boy's father choking his wife as she lay on the floor. The neighbor wrestled with the man, who was allegedly intoxicated at the time, and held him down until officers responded.

The suspect, Jose Zimic, was taken into custody and booked into county jail, police said.

Zimic's wife was transported to Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley where she was listed in serious condition. Injuries she sustained include a bi-lateral nasal fracture, a fractured left cheekbone, a fractured left eye socket, a fractured jawbone and a large subdural hematoma.

Police Report

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

June 21

- Theft:
 - 10:57 a.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
 - 2:50 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
 - 4:56 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; petty theft
- Alcohol violations:
 - 11:24 a.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Stanley Boulevard; DUI
 - 4:56 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; minor in possession of alcohol
- Found property:
 - 2:17 p.m. in the 50 block of West Angela Street
 - 4:36 p.m. at the intersection of Churchill Drive and Windsor Court

June 22

- Theft:
 - 8:29 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road
- Robbery:
 - 5:10 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive
- Public drunkenness:
 - 12:32 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road
- Prank calls:
 - 5:52 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

June 23

- Theft:
 - 9:58 a.m. in the 5300 block of Case Avenue; grand theft
 - 1:34 p.m. in the 5500 block of Sonoma Drive; petty theft
- Vandalism:
 - 8:34 a.m. in the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; worth more than \$400
 - 10:43 a.m. in the 4200 block of Foothill Road; worth less than \$400
 - 5:45 p.m. at the intersection of First and Neal streets; worth more than \$400
 - 6:19 p.m. in the 1200 block of Chianti Court; worth more than \$400
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 1:37 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and North Valley Trails Drive; non-narcotic controlled substance
 - 4:32 a.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Santa Rita

- Road; DUI
 - 7:02 a.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; public drunkenness
 - 10:42 p.m. at the intersection of Hopyard and Santa Rita roads; DUI
- Found property:
 - 2:02 at the intersection of Main Street and Del Valle Parkway

June 24

- Petty theft:
 - 3:19 p.m. in the 4400 block of Valley Avenue
- Vandalism:
 - 6:52 a.m. in the 3500 block of Mendenhall Court; worth less than \$400
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 9:50 a.m. in the 4900 block of Owens Drive
 - 11:36 a.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive
 - 2:47 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 3:04 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; public drunkenness
 - 11:10 p.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road; driving with marijuana

June 25

- Theft:
 - 9:22 a.m. in the 3600 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; petty theft
 - 10:26 a.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
 - 1:10 p.m. in the 3200 block of Omega Circle, identity theft
 - 6:30 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
 - 9:42 p.m. in the 3900 block of Vineyard Avenue; grand theft
- Vandalism:
 - 8:52 a.m. in the 5400 block of Montalvo Court; worth less than \$400
- Burglary:
 - 8:34 a.m. in the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive
 - 10:29 a.m. in the 5600 block of Owens drive; vehicular burglary
 - 6:43 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 12:38 a.m. at the intersection of Vineyard Avenue and Montevideo Drive; DUI
 - 12:55 a.m. at the intersection of Tawny Drive and Bernal Avenue; DUI
 - 2:20 a.m. in the 4000 block of Silver Street; DUI

- 10:44 p.m. in the 500 block of Boulder Court; marijuana possession
- 11:49 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
- Lost property:
 - 12:34 p.m. in the 5800 block of Parkside Drive
 - 3:46 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

June 26

- Theft:
 - 10:11 a.m. in the 5700 block of Owens Drive; petty theft
 - 2:51 p.m. in the 7200 block of Stonedale Drive; identity theft
 - 4:26 p.m. in the 1200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
 - 9:23 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 1:25 a.m. at the intersection of Kolln Street and Valley Avenue; DUI, under the influence of controlled substances
 - 1:57 a.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and Kottinger Drive; DUI
 - 1:55 a.m. in the 5200 block of Hopyard Road; DUI, marijuana possession
 - 8:24 p.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive; public drunkenness
- Assault:
 - 9:13 p.m. in the 7800 block of Knollbrook Drive
- Forgery:
 - 9:23 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

June 27

- Theft:
 - 5:03 p.m. in the 400 block of Old Bernal Avenue; grand theft
 - 9:49 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; petty theft
- Vandalism:
 - 9:17 a.m. at the intersection of Suttergate and Stoneridge drives; worth more than \$400
 - 8:17 p.m. in the 1600 block of East Gate Way
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 12:38 a.m. in the 6300 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; DUI
 - 12:56 a.m. at the intersection of Dorman Road and Robin Court; DUI
 - 3:05 a.m. in the 5000 block of Pleasanton Avenue; DUI, controlled substance possession
- Assault:
 - 9:49 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road
- Embezzlement:
 - 4:57 p.m. in the 3900 block of Valley Avenue

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Dining Out

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

Pleasanton Hotel Restaurant
 855 Main St., Pleasanton, 846-8106. Executive Chef 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.

Barbecue

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

Brewpub/Alehouse

Main Street Brewery
 830 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-8218. Pleasanton's only BrewPub, some ales (Attaboy IPA) are brewed with locally grown hops. We also have a rotating selection of guest brews and seasonal ales. To-go orders welcome and we're available for parties up to 100. Live 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.

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
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Dining Out

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.

Italian

Fontina Ristorante

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

have indoor and outdoor seating. Join us for Saturday and Sunday champagne brunch.

La Vite Ristorante

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

Girasole Grill

3180 Santa Rita Road at West Las Positas Boulevard, Pleasanton, 484-1001. Girasole, a locally owned family business, is an award winning California style Italian restaurant. It was voted Best Italian Restaurant by Pleasanton Weekly readers for 2007. We feature signature cuisine such as Scoozzi, Absolut! Prawns, chicken gorgi, spinach for Veronica, Tuscan pork and signature fresh seafood...just to name a few. We are upscale, but California casual with friendly prices.

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.

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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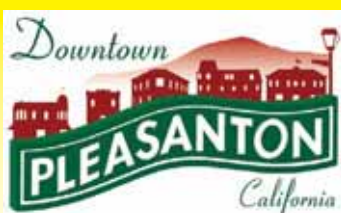


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Clover Creek Eagle Ridge
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Transitions

Obituaries

Donald James Bell

Donald James Bell died June 22
at the age of 53.

Mr. Bell was born April 19, 1955
in Juliette, Ill. to Emily and Donald
Sr. He served his country proudly in
the U.S. Army.

Mr. Bell later worked in mainte-
nance at the Pleasanton Wal-Mart
for nine years. He enjoyed life,
dancing, festivals, listening to oldies
music and finding treasures at flea
markets.

Mr. Bell is survived by his lov-
ing partner of 11 years, Faye Ponce
of Pleasanton; mother, Emily Bell
of San Jose; son, Tony; stepsons,
Dominic Rueda of Pleasanton and

Florencio Ponce of Pleasanton;
daughters, Monica Bell and Rosa
Bell; brothers, Jerald Bell and
Richard Bell; and sisters, Rita
Canisales, Connie Rodriques and
Angie Montelongo, all of San Jose.
He also leaves behind five adored
grandchildren and many nieces and
nephews. He was preceded in death
by his father, Donald Bell, Sr.

A service was held July 2. In lieu
of flowers the family requests dona-
tions be made to Hope Hospice,
6500 Dublin Blvd. Ste. 100, Dublin,
CA 94568.

James Barker Niday

James Barker Niday died June
20 in Woodland Hills, Calif. Mr.
Niday was a former Pleasanton
resident of 42 years.

He was born May 21, 1917 in

Nashville, Tenn. He was educat-
ed at the University of Chicago
and received his bachelor's degree
(S.B.) in 1942 and master's (S.M.)
in 1960.

During his life, Mr. Niday worked
for the Tennessee Valley Authority,
the Institute for Nuclear Studies at
the University of Chicago, California
Research and Development and
the Lawrence Livermore National
Laboratory.

Mr. Niday is survived by his
wife, Marcia Hitchcock Niday; his
four sons, David (Cathleen), Paul,
Michael (Jodi) and Peter (Linda);
and grandchildren Thomas (Molly),
Andrew, Sara, Bart and Kate.

Donations may be made in
the memory of Mr. Niday to the
University of Chicago. Gwen Jessen,
The University of Chicago, 1116 E.
59th St. Chicago, IL 60637.

Births

Giselle Janis Bauman

Giselle Janis Bauman was born June 4
to parents Randy and Gerry Bauman. She
weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces and was
20 1/2 inches long. Baby Giselle joins big
brothers Isaac and Kurtis.



Engagements

Kristen Niedecken & George Bruque

Debbie and Harry Niedecken are
pleased to announce the engagement
of their daughter, Kristen Niedecken,
to George Bruque.

Kristen is a 2000 graduate of
Foothill High School and George's
family resides in Fresno. They met
while attending UC Davis.

Kristen is a senior associate of
Triage Consulting Group based out of San Francisco. George graduates
from UCSD School of Medicine in June 2009 and hopes to do his pedi-
atric residency in the Bay Area.

The couple got engaged April 26 at La Jolla Beach where they enjoy
spending a lot of time together. They will be married in San Diego spring
2009 where they both currently reside.



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Calendar

Book Clubs

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

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 Fori Ristorante in Alamo. Tickets are \$20 cash, includes lunch. Call Terry, 462-8083, or visit www.commartnet.org.

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.

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.

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 Social The Widowed Men and Women of Northern California meets for a happy hour gathering at 5 p.m. the third Friday of the month at the Sheraton Hotel across from JC Penney's at Stoneridge Mall. Guests welcome. RSVP prior to event. Call Lorraine, 846-5695.

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 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.

Tribute to The Doors The Doors Legacy Band celebrates the music of one of America's most influential rock bands at 8 p.m. July 12 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. They combine elements of music, theater and poetry to every show, transporting audiences in time to the Whiskey a Go Go club in Los Angeles in 1967. Tickets are \$18. Call 931-3444 or visit www.civcartstickets.org.

Events

22nd Annual Art Under the Oaks More than 40 artists will display paintings, prints, pottery, jewelry, baskets, woodwork, fiber arts, photography and

porcelain paintings at Annual Art Under the Oaks July 12 and 13 at Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane, Livermore. Admission free and there is a free shuttle. Wine and fruit tasting and music are included.

Free Glass Flameworking Demo Free flamework glass making demonstration by artist Lionel Chapital from 1 to 3 p.m. July 5 at Worthington Gallery West, 739 Main St. Call 485-1183 or visit www.worthingtongallerywest.com.

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.

Fundraisers

Family Pancake Breakfast The San Ramon Senior Foundation hosts a family pancake breakfast from 9 to 11:30 a.m. July 13 at the San Ramon Senior Center, 9300 Alcosta Blvd. The fundraiser helps to enrich the lives of seniors through a variety of programs, events and activities. Adults are \$3.50 and children are \$2.

Hot August Nights Car Show A charity car show and open house takes place from 4 to 7 p.m. Aug. 6 at the Pleasanton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 300 Neal St. The CoolTones will perform and includes food by Kinders BBQ. Donations accepted. Contact Leah, 963-5147 or leahsloane@lifegen.net, to show a car.

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.

Seminar on Radiation Oncology for Prostate Cancer Michael Forrest, M.D., radiation oncologist, will speak at 7:30 p.m. at the July 8 Prostate Cancer Support Group to discuss Image Guided IMRT. Men in any stage of cancer and family members are invited to attend the seminar. The monthly meetings are at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. Call 275-8230.

Summer Immunization Clinics for Children Saturday clinics, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. July 12, Aug. 2 and Sept. 6 at Axis Community Health, 4361

Weekend Preview



Glass Fantastic

A multimedia glass event is going on at Worthington Gallery West, 739 Main St., Ste. J. Through Aug. 2, the gallery hosts 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. To learn more about the exhibit, call 485-1183 or visit www.worthingtongallerywest.com.

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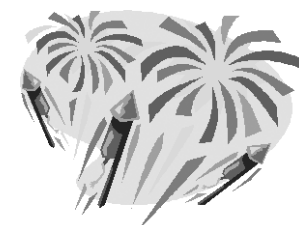
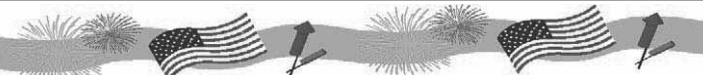


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Railroad Ave., are open to Tri-Valley families who are low income or uninsured, including Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Managed Care. Parents should bring child's immunization records, information about family income and medical insurance. There is a fee for some immunizations. Call 462-1755.

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.

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.

Lectures/ Workshops

Leadership for Success for Young Entrepreneurs Learn basic leadership principles from the perspective of a seasoned organizational psychologist, and insights into human dynamics in startups. The workshop meets at 6:30 p.m. July 14 at the University of Phoenix, room 101, 7901 Stoneridge Drive, Ste. 100. Free for eBig members; guests are \$15 if pre-registered or \$20 at the door. Visit www.ebig.org.

Miscellaneous

Adopt a Kitten for Half Price Month at TVAR During July, the Tri-Valley Animal Rescue adoption fee for kittens two to three months old will be \$50, which is half off. Kittens four to 11 months of age will be \$37.50. All kittens are raised in foster homes, spayed or neutered, vaccinated and wormed, tested for Leukemia and FIV and microchipped. Call 961-0260 or visit www.tvvar.org.

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

Aging, 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.

Day Trippers—Fentons Creamery and Paramount Theater Tours Cool off by joining us July 9 on a tour of Fentons Creamery and the Paramount Theater located in Oakland. Learn the history of this famous creamery. After lunch and ice cream treat, we're off to the Paramount Theater for a docent-led tour of this unique, Art Deco style theater. The cost is \$46 for residents or \$51 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

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 Mr. Bob Hardy, L.U.T., is "A Divine Idea." Service at 10 a.m. at the Radisson, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. All are welcome. Call 829-2733.

Sports

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.

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.

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.

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.

Twin Valley Mothers of Twins Club General meetings are at 6:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at John Knox Presbyterian Church, 7421 Amarillo Drive. and include round table discussion and dinner. Visit www.TVMOTC.com.

TV30

Conversations TV30 host Robin Fahr is joined by recording artist Lawrence Beaman and Contra Costa Food Bank Director, Larry Sly. Also, author and mental health activist, Tom Wootton discusses triumphing over serious conditions like bipolar and depression. On Channel 30 every day at 6 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 8:30 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.



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