

New parks leader

Longtime director Jim Wolfe retires this year > **page 12**

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Still safe

Recent activity doesn't inflate crime data

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PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Family ties

Pleasanton couple adopts Russian siblings

> **section 2**



Hosterman re-elected

Mayor defeats Brozosky by nearly 2,000 votes **PAGE 8**

**PP, QQ both win;
now a dilemma**

**McGovern, Sullivan
re-elected**

**Grant, Arkin, Hintzke
win school board seats**

**McNerney tops Andal
by wide margin**



Debbie Lopes

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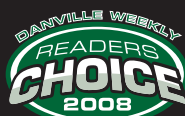
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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Where were the celebrations?

The freeways were jammed in the early evening hours Tuesday as commuters hurried home, both to vote and then to sit by their TVs and computers to watch the elections returns. Even the grocery stores were crowded. But by 7 p.m., with polls closed in the East and closing in the Midwest, almost everyone was indoors. By 8 p.m., you could roll the proverbial bowling ball down Main Street without striking a car (or a shopper). Unlike the millions we saw on television in Chicago, New York and in front of the White House, there was nary a peep publicly here to celebrate the election of Barack Obama and the change this has brought to America.

Still, there were celebrations, but just a bit more low-keyed in a city that prides itself on local politics. Up in Kottinger Ranch, a group of 30 or so enjoyed a buffet at Karla Brown's home while watching the national festivities but also staying a to computer laptop showing the slowly-changing numbers of candidates and issues in Tuesday's election. At the party were Brown's associates who championed Measure PP, the hillside protection plan that gained momentum and approval as the votes were counted and posted online. Also there was Councilwoman Cindy McGovern, who celebrated, too, as returns showed her taking a commanding lead in her council re-election bid. Valerie Arkin also celebrated a win to a school board seat. Not so pleased was mayoral candidate and former councilman—and now a school board member—Steve Bozovsky whose losing numbers were stuck in limbo but well behind Mayor Jennifer Hosterman. The point spread increased as the county Registrar posted final numbers.

Over at the Hop Yard Grill and Alehouse, City Council candidate

Jerry Pentin was also sinking fast as McGovern and Councilman Matt Sullivan increased their vote margins. Even so, refreshments flowed liberally as the crowded room of Pentin supporters turned to president-elect Obama's acceptance speech at a much more crowded (by nearly 1 million folks) Grant Park in Chicago. There were even fewer supporters at a small gathering at Sullivan's house to congratulate him on his re-election—some 20 or

so by our reporter's count.

At Mountain Mike's pizza parlor in the Raley's shopping center, Hosterman shook hands of well-wishers who had backed her re-election bid, giving her a third two-year term as mayor. But there weren't many

and few stayed very long, all of them eager to go home to watch the main show out of Chicago.

Even Congressman Jerry McNerney's party at the I.B.E.W. union hall in Dublin lacked the usual spark of victory parties McNerney has held here in the past. Although he was late arriving at his own party, the 400-500 who came and left through the evening at least enjoyed a tasty buffet. Surrounded by network and regional TV cameras, he was hardly visible to most in the room, who had already learned of his whopping lead over Republican challenger Dean Andal of Stockton. Riding on the groundswell of Democratic victories and celebrations across the country, this race seemed almost inconsequential because of the overwhelming numbers that put McNerney on top almost as soon as the polls closed.

By 10 p.m., with most of the parties shutting down, I did what the rest of the local election night party-goers did and went home to watch my TiVo reports of the much more exciting celebrations of the momentous Barack Obama victory.

By 8 p.m., you could roll the proverbial bowling ball down Main Street without striking a car (or a shopper).

About the Cover

While America watched the celebrations of Barack Obama's presidential victory, Pleasanton voters had their own local issues to handle, including the re-election of Mayor Jennifer Hosterman (shown on Main Street last Sunday), who handily defeated challenger Steve Brozovsky. Also inside, a full report on how we voted.

Vol. IX, Number 41

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Streetwise

Q: What do you see as our new president's top three priorities once he takes office?

Asked Around Town



Jim Purertas

I would like to see a big tax break imposed. Also, no more war. That should really be a top priority.

Bonnie Krichbaum

The economy, definitely. Also, I'd like to see the president find solutions for conflicts in Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan to achieve a peaceful, honorable solution.



Sarah Hollister

The top three priorities are the war, economy and health care, and not necessarily in that order. We need to have universal health care with choices. Our new president is going to have to work very hard when he's inaugurated.



Lettie Camp

First has to be the economy. I don't want to lose any jobs here in the Valley. Also, health care is another priority. We need to keep costs reasonable for everybody. I'm excited about our new president because we haven't felt this excited since JFK. I would also like to see the country come together and not be so partisan.



James Martin

We need to finish what we're doing in the Middle East. We need to first finish the war in Iraq and then move our troops into Afghanistan. With our economy in its current state, and if we are attacked again, it would destroy our country. The raising of taxes is also very concerning to me.



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

Compiled by Janet Pelletier

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Newsfront

News Digest

Senior Players are back

Laugh along with the Pleasanton Senior Players comedy productions which will run today through Sunday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. This year's show opens with "So Nice Not to See You," about an author and her secretary working in a Bahamas retreat, and continues with "Heaven Will Protect the Working Girl," a melodrama full of colorful characters and venomous villains. Tickets are \$9 to \$11, and shows are at 7 p.m. tonight and 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Call 931-5365 for more information.

Food pantry opens holiday hours

Valley Bible Church, 7106 Johnson Drive, has a food pantry to serve the hungry in the Tri-Valley area. It is open from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursdays. It will also be open at 12:30 p.m. Nov. 23 and at 12:30 p.m. Dec. 21 and 28. The pantry opened last November when a church member noticed the PTA was preparing three times as many holiday baskets than in 2006. The church is accessible on bus route three. For details, call 227-1301.

Immunizations available for kids

Fall immunization clinics are from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday and Dec. 6 at Axis Community Health, 4361 Railroad Ave. They are open to all Tri-Valley families who are low income or uninsured, including those enrolled in Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Managed Care. Bring child's immunization records and information about family income and medical insurance. There is a fee for some immunizations. Call 462-1755.

PPIE raises \$75K

Sponsorships and auctions from Pleasanton Partnerships in Education's Bon Appetit event has raised \$75,000 for Pleasanton schools. The event Oct. 11 combined sponsors, district principals and a local chef into culinary teams. Blue Agave Club won for savory dish and Mahalo Grille for their sweet entry.

Correction

The address given in "Quick response saves \$2M Golden Eagle home" (News, Oct. 24, page 5) was that of the informant. The home that was on fire was located at 8048 Golden Eagle Way.

Another bank downtown robbed

Crime data on par with last year; Pleasanton still ranked as one of safest California cities

by Emily West

Even after a downtown Washington Mutual bank was robbed last week, adding to the number of high-profile bank robberies in recent months, Pleasanton police said there is little to no increase in crime year to date.

At about 3 p.m. Oct. 30, a well-dressed man entered the bank, located at 561 Main St., and presented the teller with a note demanding

money, police said. The suspect, described as a 5-foot, 6-inches tall man weighing about 150 pounds in his early 20s, left on foot with an undisclosed amount of money.

It also appears the suspect also recently robbed a bank in Campbell, as the images captured by video surveillance cameras in both locations show nearly identical images. He appeared to be wearing the same articles of clothing each time:

(continued on page 6)



Video surveillance shows the well-dressed man robbing a bank in Campbell. The same suspect is believed to have robbed a Main Street bank.



Travelin' band

The Amador Valley High School Marching Band and Colorguard nabbed first place in the Class 5A division at the Western Band Association (WBA) competition at Gilroy High School Oct. 18 and again at the WBA Live Oak Competition at Diablo Valley College on Oct. 25. The season is off to an exciting start and will continue with a trip overseas to London to play in the 2009 New Year's Day parade.

Weekly wins top award for public service stories

Holiday Fund effort, series given 1st place recognition

The Pleasanton Weekly won the prestigious first-place award in the Public Service category among all state weekly newspapers in its circulation category Saturday from the California Newspaper Publishers Association at an awards luncheon at the Sheraton Universal Hotel in Universal City.

The award, given as part of the organization's 2008 CNPA Better Newspapers Contest, recognized the newspaper for its 2007 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund and a series of articles that reported on the eight

Tri-Valley nonprofits that needed the community's financial support to meet their 2008 service obligations.

The Weekly, with matching funds provided by the Tri-Valley Community Foundation, raised \$150,000, which was distributed in equal amounts to the nonprofits. They were Axis Community Health, Hope Hospice, Open Heart Kitchen, Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation, Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley, Tri-Valley Haven, Valley Humane Society and the emer-

gency room expansion program at ValleyCare Medical Center.

The Pleasanton Weekly's stories spanned a six-week period from Thanksgiving week to early January, with the checks to the nonprofits distributed early this year. All of the contributions made by individuals, organizations and businesses went to the nonprofits with the Weekly and the Tri-Valley Community Foundation absorbing all administrative expenses.

The stories were written by Jeb Bing, publisher and editor; Janet Pelletier, managing editor; and

Emily West, features and education editor.

The newspaper's 2008 Holiday Fund campaign will be launched this year on Nov. 21.

The public service award topped all other entries by weekly newspapers in the 11,001-25,000 circulation category in California. The newspaper also won certificates of achievement from the CNPA for outstanding entries in the Columns and Business/Financial Story categories.

(continued on page 7)

Parents to join call to build up teens

Author to speak on 40 Assets that seek to holistically develop young adults

by Emily West

Educators are joining the community together to support research that shows essential elements needed in the development of children. Called the 40 Developmental Assets, they are believed to be traits of successful young people who are on their way to a bright future.

Produced from study results by the Search Institute, the asset guidelines have been part of Pleasanton education for some time. Having educated students at a conference before the school year, Pnina Tobin from Amador Valley Adult and Community Education said they are being more systematic about implementing the ideas.

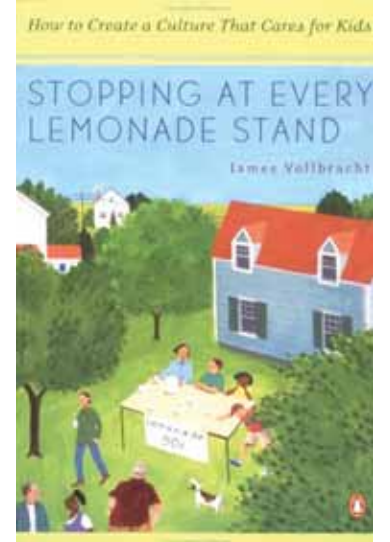
"We have a 40 Assets task force that's spreading the message to schools and parents," she said. "We want to make it a 40 Assets community. It looks at a child's strengths and develops them instead of focusing on their problems."

From 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, adult and community education invites parents and students from fourth to 12th grade to hear from a senior trainer at the Search Institute, James Vollbracht. Author of a book based off the program, "Stopping at Every Lemonade Stand," he will discuss the progress of building assets in Pleasanton.

"The book offers simple ways to reconnect disconnections that have occurred between adults and kids," Tobin said.

The goals act like building blocks, with the idea of adding them in a holistic and proactive approach. An example of an asset would be family support and interaction as well as raised self esteem. As a child matures, it is believed that a teen who has half of the suggested amount would more easily ward off any high-risk behaviors, such as drug and alcohol abuse and pregnancy.

Thursday night's program is free and anyone interested can register



by calling 426-4280. For details on the event, visit www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/adulted.

To view the 40 Developmental Assets, visit www.search-institute.org/downloads. ■

Storm runoff and algae, not sewage spill, kill fish

by Janet Pelletier

The first storm of the season and heightened algae levels are now being blamed for the deaths of 5,000 fish in the Alameda Creek, not a sewage spill from the Dublin-San Ramon Services District's Pleasanton plant.

The fish--mainly carp, sucker and sculpin--were found floating in the Fremont creek on Oct. 6. A sewage leak occurred at DSRSD on the same day. Initially, reports said 116,000 gallons spilled into the Alamo Canal, which runs adjacent to the plant and Interstate 680 through Pleasanton. Dan Gallagher, the wastewater plant's operations manager, said Tuesday that the district has since concluded that only 25 percent of that amount actually reached the canal.

"Only 29,000 gallons of that escaped to Alamo Creek along the freeway," Gallagher said. "The rest of the water was trapped in the construction site of our new maintenance facility and didn't leave that site. We did inspections and took samples from the creek the day of the spill."

Gallagher added that ducks and fish were still in the creek with no apparent signs of infection.

Officials with the Alameda County Water District now believe that a combination of urban runoff from the first rains of the season and an abnormally high level of algae--two factors that deprived the fish of oxygen--were the culprits.

"From what we have been able to determine, it doesn't appear the leak upstream in Alamo Canal, any affluent that got in there, really

contributed to the fish kill downstream," a spokesman said.

Gallagher said the 29,000 gallons that did make it to the canal was what's called secondary affluent, which has been treated twice.

"Our spill was fully treated secondary affluent that had been completely disinfected so the water that did make its way down to the creek was actually quite clean," Gallagher said. "It's the same water that we discharge in San Francisco Bay every day.

The secondary affluent goes through two stages of treatment, removes 99 percent of the pollutants, he added. The spill was a result of a construction worker hooking up a new pipe to existing pipe, with the contents leaking, Gallagher said. ■

Robbery

(continued from page 5)

a green-gray jacket, white shirt, dark-colored tie and a dark Banana Republic beanie hat.

"It was the same guy, dead on," Det. Jerry Nicely said, adding that the second group of images was more clear. "He's definitely a white male. The video [from the Pleasanton bank] looked like he could be Middle Eastern or Hispanic."

Police said weapons were neither seen nor mentioned during both incidences.

This robbery is one of several recent incidences in the downtown area. The previous four were at Wells Fargo banks and were allegedly robbed by two men who have since been arrested by police.

Despite the high-profile robberies, crime doesn't appear to have increased in the last year.

Prior to the WaMu robbery, Sgt. Jim Knox said that there has been one less robbery year-to-date and aggravated assaults are up slightly, but it's not a significant jump.

October marked National Crime Prevention Month, where the police department provided crime prevention packs to the public, with information on personal security, identity theft and child safety.

At that time, police said statistics show Pleasanton as one of the safest communities in California. Reports from 2007 show the lowest crime rate in more than 20 years, with 19.8 Part I crimes per 1,000 people. Part I crimes were defined as being serious and violent in nature, including homicide, rape,

burglary, aggravated assault, theft, vehicle theft and arson.

This year has also proven a contrast years past where Part I crimes ranged from 23 to 40 per 1,000 people.

One prevalent issue from last year that hasn't seen improvement would be vehicular burglaries, many of which are easily preventable. Knox said they continue to encourage people to remove valuables from vehicles, especially overnight, and to always lock up. This message especially rings true as the height of the holiday shopping season approaches and visible shopping bags have been known to lure burglars.

Anyone with information on the WaMu robbery is asked to contact the Pleasanton Police Department at 931-5100. ■

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Of Note

Axis Health receives \$100,000 grant

Sutter Health and its Palo Alto Medical Foundation affiliate, which has a medical care facility in Dublin, have given Axis Community Health of Pleasanton \$100,000 to support its ongoing services to those who lack adequate health insurance or have none at all.

Ben Drew of the Palo Alto organization said the grant represents a portion of the \$2.5 million that Sutter Health awarded this month to 26 medical and dental care centers across Northern California that serve large percentages of low-income, uninsured and underinsured patients.

Sue Compton, chief executive officer of Axis, said the nonprofit health care organization will use the \$100,000 grant to complete a facility expansion and renovation project at its Pleasanton clinic site on Railroad Avenue. Alameda County and the cities of Pleasanton and Dublin had previously committed funds in support of this project, but up to now Axis had been unable to fully fund the expansion.

The grant from Sutter Health will allow Axis to complete the project and increase its capacity to provide medical care to Tri-Valley residents by 25 percent, Compton said. The project involves the conversion of an existing office area to three exam rooms, expansion of waiting areas and renovation of bathrooms.

"The expansion and renovation of our Pleasanton Clinic will allow more residents to seek medical care at a time when many of our patients have either lost their health insurance or found it difficult to pay for medical care," Compton said.

Safeway honored with Fit Business Award

Pleasanton-based Safeway was recently honored at the Fit Business Awards Ceremony, where it received the silver

award from the California Task Force on Youth and Workplace Wellness.

Recognizing the value of a fit and healthy workplace to organizations and workers alike, the California Task Force on Youth and Workplace Wellness recently honored 78 employers with the 2008 Fit Business Awards. The annual awards program was first launched in 2003 to private and nonprofit companies across California seeking to recognize business models that promote a healthier workplace.

Among the innovations implemented by this year's Fit Business award winners were health, fitness and nutrition initiatives tailored to business culture and employee needs. These included sponsoring employee sporting tournaments such as competitive basketball and volleyball to horseshoes and table tennis; ergonomics evaluations for new

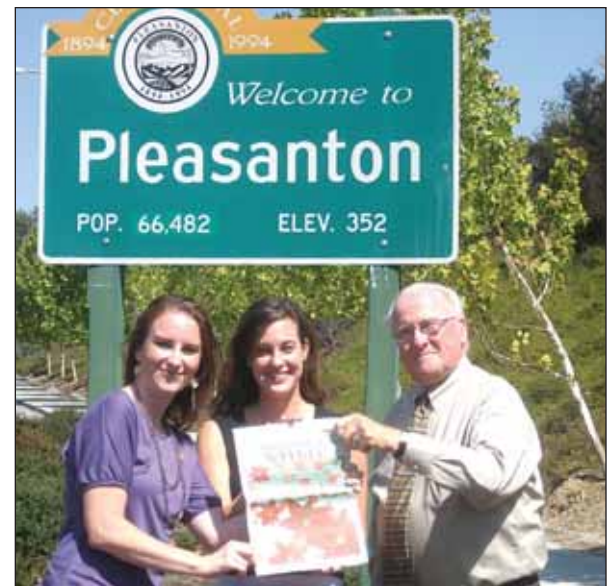
or relocated employees; nutrition education, cooking classes and farmers' market tours; health fairs, stress reduction seminars and health clinic screenings; interactive wellness websites, community health calendars and online newsletters; on-site fitness evaluations and free fitness/health classes; balanced and organic food selections made from scratch in employee cafeterias; physical activity breaks; sponsored walks and runs; as well as reimbursement for wellness and fitness-related services such as gym memberships.

According to the task force, physical inactivity, obesity and other health-related problems cost California businesses an estimated \$28 billion a year in lost productivity, workers' compensation, and direct and indirect medical costs. For more information, visit www.wellnesstaskforce.org.



Chalk another one up for Nightingale

It was quite the celebration Oct. 28 as Orville Nightingale celebrated his 104th birthday with daughter Marilyn and friends at Ridgeview Commons. Pleasanton's oldest living man can still crack a joke and keeps up-to-date by reading several newspapers each day. Unable to join the celebration were his grandsons, who were away at college.



From L-R, Janet Pelletier, managing editor, Emily West, features editor, and Jeb Bing, publisher and editor hold the Weekly's Holiday Fund issue.

CNPA

(continued from page 5)

The Pleasanton Weekly was one of five newspapers that are part of the Embarcadero Publishing Company group that won statewide awards in the annual CNPA contest. The Palo Alto Weekly won three first-place awards in its circulation category for weekly newspapers with circulation of 25,000 and more, and it also won four second place awards. The Pacific Sun in Marin County won a first-place award, with the Almanac that covers Menlo Park and neighboring communities winning three first-place awards and one for second place, and the Mountain View Voice receiving three second-place awards.

In addition to judges selected from California in the first wave of judging California weekly and daily newspapers for the 2008 competition, the final awards decisions were made by a CNPA blue ribbon panel that included Chris Pech, editor, Memphis Commercial-Appeal; Maura Casey, editorial writer, New York Times; Dave Offer, retired editor, Augusta & Waterville (Maine) Newspapers; Barbara King, publisher, The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer; Suki Dardarian, news managing editor, The Seattle Times; Jack Ronald, editor and publisher, The (Portland, Ind.) Commercial Review; Deana Sands, retired managing editor, Omaha World-Herald, and David Hawpe, editorial director, Louisville Courier-Journal.

—Jeb Bing

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MAYOR AND COUNCIL

LOCAL MEASURES

Hosterman re-elected

Sullivan, McGovern hold onto council seats; Pentin loses

by Jeb Bing

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman was re-elected to a third term Tuesday with incumbent City Councilmembers Matt Sullivan and Cindy McGovern also winning re-election to four more years on the council.

Hosterman was chosen for a third two-year term as mayor by a wide margin of votes over her challenger Steve Brozosky, winning 11,875 of the votes cast in the municipal election—or 54.19 percent—against 9,964 votes—or 45.47 percent—of the votes cast for Brozosky.

Two years ago in the same race, Hosterman narrowly defeated Brozosky by only 189 votes in a final count that was determined three weeks after the November 2006 election.

Brozosky, who had championed hillside protection Measure PP, which won handily, failed to attract enough of those votes to topple Hosterman, who was a staunch opponent of the measure.



Matt Sullivan



Cindy McGovern

In moving forward, Hosterman said the top priorities for the council now are to deal with the economy.

“The most important issues right now are the economy and especially the economy related to our downtown,” she said. “We are not seeing the revenues that we’ve seen in the past. So while I’m very proud of the fact that we’ve been able to move five capital improvement projects toward completion, those days are largely gone.”

Hosterman said the city’s financial team will huddle starting this month to see

how the city government can continue to deliver quality services, but in a more streamlined and less expensive fashion.

One move she hopes to make is to find a funding mechanism to pay off the \$1.5 million outstanding in bonds for the Callippe Preserve Golf Course.

“I’d like to see us in the black on that one,” she said. “That’s one big ticket item I plan to address.”

A major concern, too, Hosterman said, is to do whatever the city government can do to improve profitability for downtown merchants so that they can pay their rent, pay their bills and stay in business.

“Unfortunately, the (San Jose) Sharks reneged at the last minute on bringing holiday ice to Pleasanton,” she said. However, last Friday we all but sealed a deal on a holiday ice plan for 2009. That doesn’t do anything for merchants this year so we are going to look at creative ways to shore up pedestrian traffic downtown and give merchants every opportunity to make the sales they need to meet their overhead.”

Hosterman said a recent report by an economist suggested that the country is on for four more quarters of recession, to be followed by a period of recovery over the following two years.

Hosterman said she will ask the council to schedule a retreat for early next year to address financial and other problems, as well



Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, who won her re-election bid, talks to Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio at Mountain Mike's Pizza.



Mayoral challenger Steve Brozosky votes at his polling site Tuesday. Brozosky lost his bid by nearly 2,000 votes.

Voters approve hillside measures PP, QQ

City Council now must decide which measure to follow

by Janet Pelletier and Jeb Bing

Hillside protection measures PP and QQ both came out of Tuesday night election returns with decisive victories, leaving the matter to be ultimately dealt with by the City Council.

With all 47 Pleasanton precincts reporting, PP came away with 12,787 ‘yes’ votes, representing 59.81 percent, while 8,594 ‘no’ votes were tallied, representing 40.1 percent. A total of 11,804 ‘yes’ votes were made for QQ, representing 54.2 percent, while 9,943 ‘no’ votes, representing 45.7 percent were cast.

Because both Measures PP and QQ received favorable votes from a majority of those casting ballots, both measures were officially approved. It will now be up to the City Council to consider the measures and develop an action plan for putting a hillside protection ordinance in place that reflects the intent of both measures.

PP seeks to ban development on ridgelines, as well as on slopes with 25 percent grade or more. PP also tightens the definition of housing units that is used in determining what counts toward the city’s voter-mandated 29,000-unit housing cap. Placed on the ballot by a majority of the City Council—Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and councilmembers Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Jerry Thorne—Measure QQ proposed much the same as the citizens’ initiative, but only after detailed review by various city commissions, a citizens’ task force, an environmental impact report and final council action.

Karla Brown, one of the chief members of the Measure PP group, said she was happy that so many voters approved the citizen’s initiative.

“I’m very, very excited,” Brown said, adding that supporters worked very hard on the grassroots campaign. “Both PP and QQ were strongly supported by the public, saying to me that the public wants hillside protection and they’re gangbusters to get it.”

Asked what role PP backers could play in the council’s drafting of an ordinance, Brown said: “I would hope that the current council would draw from the strong supporters of PP in implementing the measure here in town.”

(continued on page 11)

(continued on page 10)

CONGRESS

McNerney overwhelms Andal in 11th District Congressional race

Incumbent wins 65 percent of vote compared to challenger's 35 percent

by Jeb Bing

First-term Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) easily defeated Republican challenger Dean Andal of Stockton Tuesday to win a second two-year term as the U.S. Representative from the 11th Congressional District.

The district, which includes all but a small section of Pleasanton's northwest side that lies in the 13th Congressional District, straddles the East Bay and por-

tions of the Central Valley.

With 97 percent of precincts reporting, McNerney won with 55 percent of the vote to Andal's 45 percent. In Alameda County,

McNerney did even better, winning 65 percent of the vote—or 20,880 votes—against Andal's 35 percent, or 11,399 votes.

Two years ago, McNerney pulled off an upset, ousting powerful Republican incumbent Richard Pombo. ■



Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) joins supporters at a post-election rally in Dublin.

Jeb Bing

ASSEMBLY



Joan Buchanan joins City Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio at pre-election coffee in San Ramon.

Jeb Bing

Buchanan victorious over San Ramon mayor Wilson

Alamo Democrat wins competitive 15th Assembly seat with 52.9 percent of vote

In the hotly contested 15th State Assembly District, which includes Pleasanton's northeast side, Alamo resident and Democrat Joan Buchanan won the seat with 52.9 percent of the votes cast over Republican Abram Wilson, who is mayor of San Ramon.

With all 83 precincts counted, Buchanan received 15,622 votes to Wilson's 13,846 votes.

Buchanan's victory dashed the GOP's last hope of retaining a partisan office in the Bay Area, with business interests spending heavily to save the seat being vacated by termed-out, three-term Assemblyman Guy Houston.

In the 18th State Assembly District, which includes much of Pleasanton's north and west sides, Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi (D-Castro Valley) received more

than 77 percent of the votes cast over her Republican opponent Lou Filipovich, a perennial candidate.

In the 20th district, State Assemblyman Alberto Torrico (D-Newark) was re-elected to his third—and final—two-year term, receiving 72 percent of the vote over Republican challenger Jeffrey Wald.

Also winning in Tuesday's election:

• **Measure WW**—This is East Bay Park District's \$500 million bond issue. Before the ballots were cast, there was some concern the measure wouldn't pass with voters wary of paying a tax in a struggling economy. But with 71.7 percent of the votes cast favoring the measure, it more than crossed the threshold of a two-thirds majority. Measure WW will finance \$500 million in bonds over two decades by extend-

ing a property tax of up to \$10 per \$100,000 in assessed valuation.

• **BART Board of Directors District 5**—John McPartland topped challenger Linda Jeffery Sailors with 60.9 percent of the vote compared to her 38.7 percent.

• **Judge for Alameda County Superior Court**—Dennis Hayashi received 222,457 votes, or 61.36 percent of the total votes cast, or defeat Phil Daly, who received 136,806 votes, or 37.74 percent.

• **Dublin mayor**—Dublin Councilman Tim Sbranti won the mayor's post handily with 9,424 votes, or 84.49 percent of those cast, to succeed Mayor Janet Lockhart, who is termed out this year. Sbranti's opponents were Elizabeth (Liz) King, who received 9.48 percent of the votes, and Shawn Costello, with 5.73 percent. ■

SCHOOL BOARD

Grant, Arkin, Hintzke win board seats

Trio faces tough budget decisions as state grapples with deficit

by Emily West

Chris Grant, Valerie Arkin and Jamie Yee Hintzke were elected to the Pleasanton school board Tuesday in what was the first time in years that three seats—or a majority on the five-member board—were up for grabs.

Grant, who was appointed to the school board in February 2007, led the six-candidate ticket, receiving 10,960—or 23.94 percent—of the total votes cast in the school board election. Close behind was Arkin, with 10,433, or 22.79 percent, of the votes cast, and Hintzke, with 9,166, or 20.02 percent.

Surprisingly, optometrist Stephen Page, who did little campaigning and declined newspaper interviews and invitations to join other candidates at public forums, trailed the three winners by less than 3,000 votes, receiving 6,303, or 13.77 percent, of the total votes cast.

Commenting on the Pleasanton Weekly's website, he said he didn't seek or accept money because he "wanted to test the idea that a person could run on the value of his ideas, merit, dedication to citizen-service, and the value of one's experiences."

Page also topped runners-up Jeff Bowser, who received 5,679 votes, or 12.40 percent of the votes cast, and Prasad V. Rallapalli, who received 3,172, or 6.93 percent of the votes.

Grant, Arkin and Hintzke will be sworn into office at the board's first meeting Dec. 9, when Grant, who is clerk of the board, could

be elected its president for 2009. Hintzke and Arkin will succeed board members Steve Brozosky, who stepped down to run unsuccessfully for Pleasanton mayor in Tuesday's election, and longtime board member Kris Weaver, who chose not to seek another term on the board.

The newly-elected trio will join board members Pat Kernan and current board president Jim Ott at a time when the board and Superintendent John Casey and his staff will have to grapple with possible major budget cuts as a result of the state's \$16-billion—and growing—budget deficit.

"I'm very pleased with the three that were selected," Ott said. "There will be new faces and new perspectives that we can tap into. We're going to have tough challenges ahead."

A senior vice president at Kaiser Permanente, Grant said his passion is for public education and service to schools. In a pre-election interview, he said his goals are to maintain class size reduction as well as reading, science and math intervention programs, and to aim for continued improvement in student achievement, fiscal responsibility and school safety.

While he is excited and confident in the new board, he recognizes a potentially difficult road ahead.

"I think we need to roll up our sleeves and get to work right away," he said. "The state situation is a challenge and it's going to be



Chris Grant



Valerie Arkin



Jamie Yee Hintzke

(continued on page 10)

Election Day proved easy going

Many absentee ballots turned in at polling places

by Emily West

Voters flocked to Pleasanton polls Tuesday and all around the county the process was relatively smooth.

Alameda County Registrar of Voters Dave Macdonald said it was smoother than he anticipated.

"This was one of the smoothest elections we have ever had," he said. "Based on the turnout, enthusiasm and interest, I was expecting a lot more problems and issues. Everything went extraordinarily well."

City Clerk Karen Diaz said they didn't receive any calls about voting problems around the city. Two years ago there was some confusion over polling places, specifically the one located at the Parkview Assisted Living, as the street name had changed from Junipero Street to Valley Avenue prior to the election.

One woman arrived at 6 a.m. at Precinct No. 520220, located in the garage of homeowners Alice and Joe Athenour at 3127 Tokay Ct. in Vintage Heights.

"She wanted to be the first to cast her ballot in this election and waited until the poll opened at 7 a.m.," said Voting Inspector Cathy Jacob.

By 8:30 a.m., 69 voters had cast their paper ballots, which were then fed into a counting machine. The precinct has 1,300 registered voters on its books.

Local and county election officials said about 70 percent of Pleasanton's more than 39,000 registered voters cast ballots by the time the polls closed at 8 p.m., with as many as 50 percent of them casting absentee ballots that were either mailed to the County Registrar's office or were turned in at polling places.

Compared to past elections,



Janet Pellerier

Torrie Whitelaw inserts her ballot into a scanner machine at a polling precinct at Pleasanton Middle School. Poll workers reported no problems despite heavy turnout, save for a couple of people who were confused about their polling location.

Macdonald said there were far more of vote-by-mail ballots turned into the polls. While the majority of absentee ballot results were reported on the county's website around 8 p.m. Tuesday, he said that as of Wednesday morning there were still some more ballots to be counted.

"Everyone thinks it's over," he said. "What we did see were record numbers of people voting by mail ballots at the poll. We're trying to figure out how many we have and there are a lot of votes left to count. I would be very cautious about anyone declaring victory."

The county has 28 days to certify the election and after that is when more statistics about voting will be available. Macdonald did reveal that this year there were about 804,000 people registered to vote in the county, compared to the last presidential election when there were 745,000 registered.

Not so smooth, however, was how Pleasanton seemed plagued by sign stealers in the days leading up to the election. At least one resident reported vandalism, which he believed to be in reaction to a Barack Obama sign in front of his yard.

Jeb Bing contributed to this report.

School board

(continued from page 9)

important that every program and every dollar has the greatest benefit to our schools and to our kids."

Arkin's work with youth over the past 11 years includes serving as a YMCA program coordinator and as a member on their board of directors. A library commissioner and parent of three children in the district, she has volunteered at Mohr Elementary, Harvest Park Middle and Amador Valley High

schools. Arkin also holds a bachelor's degree in health science and an MBA, which she said will help guide the district through budget difficulties. Her priorities include "continuing and improving the high academic standards, maintaining programs during budget challenges and ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of our students."

Responding to being elected, Arkin said, "I feel extremely honored to be elected to the school board. I am really looking forward to serving on the board and I feel proud to have the public put their trust in me."

A longtime education advocate, Hintzke has spent the last several years with the PTA and PTA Council, most recently serving as president, as well as education-related committees. Now that her post as president is over, the mother of two has set out to ensure all students receive a great education and the district can keep pushing for further excellence.

Hintzke said she looks forward to being sworn in and participating in the various activities to prepare the newly elected officials up to speed on being a board member.

"I'm really excited to be able to serve in this capacity," she said, adding that while it will be fun, it will also be hard work.

In looking ahead, Grant also said he commends each candidate for stepping forward with hopes to serve the district.

"I look forward to the opportunity to have Jeff, Prasad and Stephen to stay closely involved in our schools and participate on educational committees," he said.

Jeb Bing contributed to this report.

Measures

(continued from page 8)

"I certainly hope that the three dissenting members on the council listen," she added.

City Councilman Matt Sullivan, who was re-elected Tuesday to a new four-year term, said he too was pleased with Measure PP's pas-

sage, something he had supported during his campaign.

"One of the things that this election tells me is that people are paying attention," he said. "With all the money that we saw injected into this campaign, it's heartening to me that (money) isn't what decides some of these things, that people are looking at the issues and are educating themselves." ■

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STATE PROPOSITIONS

Prop 8 passes; foes cry foul

Several propositions pass despite uncertain economy

California voters saw 12 propositions on the ballot, many of which were controversial. The most heated debate was over Proposition 8, which would ban same-sex marriage.

More Yes on 8 signs were staked in Pleasanton dirt than its opposition, with several volunteers braving the rain to hold up signs at busy city intersections Monday. While the proposition holds the majority vote in the state, 61.9 percent of Alameda County voters voted to defeat Prop 8. The county's registrar of voters has yet to certify the election and have yet to count all the votes. In the meantime, gay-rights advocates have reportedly filed a legal challenge to the California Supreme Court, calling it an illegal constitutional revision.

With 99.5 percent of precincts reporting as of press time, other propositions voters approved were Prop 1A, the high-speed train (52.2 percent); Prop 2, standards for farm animals (63.2 percent); children's hospital bond act (54 percent); victim's rights (53.5 percent); redistricting boundaries (50.6 percent); and the veterans' bond (63.5 percent).

—Emily West

Results

1A	high-speed rail	YES 52.2% ✓	NO 47.8%
2	Farm animal conditions	YES 63.2% ✓	NO 36.8%
3	Children's hospitals	YES 54.8% ✓	NO 45.2%
4	Abortion notice	YES 47.9%	✓NO 52.1%
5	Drug treatment	YES 40.1%	✓NO 59.9%
6	Criminal sentences	YES 30.7%	✓NO 69.3%
7	Renewable energy	YES 35.1%	✓NO 64.9%
8	Same-sex marriage	YES 52.5% ✓	NO 47.5%
9	Victim's rights	YES 53.5% ✓	NO 46.5%
10	Clean energy	YES 40.2%	✓NO 59.8%
11	Redrawing political lines	YES 50.6% ✓	NO 49.4%
12	Veteran support	YES 63.5% ✓	NO 36.5%

Mayor

(continued from page 8)

as a way to move matters before the council more expeditiously.

With all 47 Pleasanton precincts reporting, voters re-elected Sullivan and McGovern to serve four more years. Challenger and local businessman Jerry Pentin failed to gain a council seat in his first try for the council.

McGovern led the ticket, receiving 12,418 votes, or 35.05 percent of the total number of votes cast, with Sullivan finishing close behind with 11,032 votes, or 31.14 percent.

Pentin, the third challenger in the council race and a political newcomer, received 7,593 votes, or 21.43 percent. Howard Neely, a former school principal who withdrew from the City Council race for personal reasons—but too late to have his name removed from the ballot—received 4,312 votes, or 12.17 percent of the votes cast.

Neely threw his support to Pentin and asked voters to cast their ballots for Pentin. If all of them had, Pentin would have received more votes but probably still not enough to win a council seat.

Meeting with his supporters Tuesday night at a post election reception, Pentin said he knew he would be competing against two very good incumbents for the City Council, “and they simply came out ahead.”

“We gave this campaign everything we had, walking the precincts

and debating other candidates,” Pentin said.

Will he run again?

“We’ll see when the time comes,” he answered. “Right now I’m happy to be continuing on as a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission.”

Both Sullivan and McGovern, first elected to the council in 2004, can serve two four-year terms under the city’s term limits law.

McGovern said she is thankful for voters who have supported her.

“I look forward to working with residents of all ages in the coming four years as we go forward with the update of our Youth Master Plan, Phase II of the Bernal Park, Wayside Park improvements in our downtown and our Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan,” she said.

As for the economy, McGovern said: “We will continue to monitor our financial status while being fiscally prudent, seek innovative ways to attract and retain business especially in our downtown and continue to make improvements for better traffic flow and pedestrian safety.”

Sullivan said he, too, is looking forward to the next four years.

“We need to adopt this General Plan, we need to get some of these big policy issues accomplished and I really want to move on to some other things such as how do we preserve open space, how do we implement some of the energy and water conservation programs we’ve been talking about and how do we address the need for affordable housing,” he said. ■

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Pleasanton names new parks director

by Jeb Bing

Susan Andrade-Wax, currently the Community Services Director for the city of Gilroy, has been hired to succeed Jim Wolfe, Pleasanton's longtime Director of Parks and Community Services, who is retiring. Andrade-Wax, who has 24 years of service in related work, will assume her new duties on Nov. 24, according to City Manager Nelson Fialho.



Susan Andrade-Wax

Wolfe's position, which was posted on leading municipal and recreation-related search sites, listed an annual starting salary of \$153,456.

Andrade-Wax lives in Gilroy with her husband Dan, a son Chris, 21, a student at Gavilan Junior College; a daughter Sarah, 9, and another daughter, Justine, 19, who attends

Long Beach State University.

Prior to taking the Gilroy position, Andrade-Wax worked in recreation and human services for the cities of Santa Clarita, Claremont, Chino Hills and Chino, as well as at UCLA.

"Susan was selected from a very broad and seasoned field of qualified applicants for her innovation and breadth of knowledge in recreation services, an amenity that is very important to the residents of Pleasanton," Fialho said.

In her new position, she will oversee a department that includes all the recreation and sports programs and facilities in Pleasanton, including the Dolores Bengtson Aquatics Center and the Pleasanton Tennis Center, Gingerbread Preschool, the Pleasanton Senior Center, the

Pleasanton Paratransit Service, all of the Civic Arts programs, and the operation, scheduling and maintenance of 43 parks and community-wide special events, such as the annual Hometown Holidays Parade and Tree Lighting ceremony.

She will succeed Wolfe, who is retiring after serving as Director of Parks and Community Services for 11 years.

"Many of the young professionals that Jim Wolfe has mentored over the years have gone on to become dynamic and successful leaders," Andrade-Wax said. "I am thrilled to have the opportunity to serve the community of Pleasanton, as it is my goal to continue this legacy and build upon the solid foundation that Jim and the city have worked hard to create."

Andrade-Wax and her husband, who is the Recreation Manager for the city of San Jose, plan to relocate to Pleasanton with their family in the near future. ■

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Keeping blood flowing

Red Cross seeks donors to recoup holiday deficits with gift card drawing

With the holidays approaching, typically donating blood falls off the to-do list. In hopes to get more donors, the American Red Cross of Northern California will hold a drawing for a \$250 Safeway gift card.

All donors can enter the drawing at any Red Cross blood drive or blood center starting Nov. 1 and through Nov. 21. The winner will be selected Nov. 25 in time for the

Thanksgiving holiday.

To make a blood donation appointment, call 800-GIVE LIFE (800-448-3543) or visit www.beadonor.com. The Pleasanton location is located at 5565-B Springdale Ave., with other Bay Area locations in Oakland, San Jose, Pleasant Hill and Newark. Blood drives are also held regularly throughout the region.

The Pleasanton location is also looking for volunteers. An orienta-

tion will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Nov. 13. People interested can tour the blood center and learn about ways to help: greet, inform and thank community blood donors, or help post fliers at key locations. Advanced sign-up is required for the orientation. To learn more about the volunteer opportunities, call 510-594-5165 or email BlackstoneA@usa.redcross.org.

--Emily West

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The McFall and Olson kids, above, get up-to-date on the latest hometown news before plunging into three days of park-hopping at Disneyland over their Thanksgiving break. Pictured from L-R: Luke McFall, Megan and Kaelin Olson, Kaitlyn and Jessica McFall. The kids had a great time and even ran into several Pleasanton families. It's a small world after all!

Crouching tiger, hidden Weekly

Nina Ni, left, holds the Weekly as she poses in front of the Tower of Tiger Hill in Suzhou, China.

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Opinion

Editorial

Moving on

With both Measures PP and QQ winning voter approval Tuesday, it will now be up to the City Council to decide how to proceed in drafting a hillside protection ordinance that will adhere to the intent of both measures. Measure PP was a citizens' initiative placed on the ballot after 5,000 registered voters asked that the public impose restrictions on hillside development on ridgelines and slopes with 25 percent slopes or greater. Measure QQ was a response by a council majority to offer the same hillside protection, but only after public hearings, reviews by the Planning Commission and City Council, an environmental review and detailed staff analysis. It requires that all of these actions be completed by the end of 2009. Compromise—or even a civil discourse—will be difficult. The Measure PP proponents and their antagonists have sparred verbally for more than a year and there has been little middle ground. Only Tuesday, a key sponsor of Measure PP, former Councilwoman Kay Ayala, unleashed a blistering attack on Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and the council majority. Ayala said a “hit piece” (her words) against Measure PP had been sent to Pleasanton voters by an organization funded and supported by the Democratic Party, including consultants also used by Hosterman and Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio. Gratuitously, she told them publicly “I feel embarrassed for you.”

Still, since the Oak Grove development issue, which is under review by the State Court of Appeal, and the PP and QQ measures have occupied many hours of the council's time during the year, it's vital that our city's leaders move on to other important issues, especially the economy and how it is affecting Pleasanton. Already, downtown merchants are scrambling to attract more pedestrian traffic that will shop at their stores and help them pay their bills, their rents and stay in business. Hosterman, in her re-election statement, promised to assemble a team of experts both within City Hall and on the outside to devise attractions and promotions that will drive more business to Pleasanton retailers, especially those in the downtown. Although the Sharks' holiday ice rink fell through, she's met with the group and is nearing a deal to make sure there will be outdoor rinks and ice skating downtown at this time next year. In the meantime, city-sponsored incentives are under consideration to help retailers in the coming holiday season.

As municipalities go, Pleasanton is in far better shape than most. Major capital projects, such as the Alviso Adobe Community Park, renovation of the Veterans Memorial Building, restoration of Kottinger Creek and the Valley Avenue underpass, to name a few, have been funded or completed. Lighted baseball fields on the Bernal property are nearly completed, a Phase 2 that includes more sports fields, and construction of the new Firehouse Arts Center on Railroad Avenue are also funded. Next year, as Hosterman warns, will be different. Because of economic uncertainties, all of us are tightening our belts and the city government, while still holding ample “rainy day” reserves, is hunkering down, too. Once the major building projects now under way are completed, look for the council to batten down the financial hatches and prepare for a period of revenue that will be less than projected flowing into the municipal coffers. There's also the threat, which grows more serious by the minute, that Gov. Schwarzenegger and the state legislature will once again turn to California cities and counties to redirect revenue to Sacramento, possibly with no promise to ever pay it back.

While a resolution of Measures PP and QQ will be a top priority, the council and city staff must move on to the even more serious concerns facing Pleasanton and all of us who live here: an economic downturn and how we meet its challenges.

Your Turn

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

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

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

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

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Guest Opinion

Time and money made holiday ice rink unfeasible

In response to the recent Pleasanton Weekly article regarding a potential holiday skating rink in downtown Pleasanton ("Sharks unit cancels downtown holiday ice skating plans, News, Oct. 24, page 5), I would like to comment on the series of events which led to our organization's decision not to pursue the rink for the 2008 holiday season.



Let me assure residents that staff from both the city of Pleasanton and San Jose Arena Management worked diligently to make the holiday rink a reality for the coming holiday season.

The logistics of situating a 60-foot by 100-foot sheet of ice in the downtown area with sufficient room for staging, skate rental, refrigeration equipment, space for up to 200 people to congregate, plus adequate parking, was a daunting task. After considering several potential locations, the only satisfactory solution was a rink in the City Hall parking lot. Still, SJAM was prepared to move forward and make the holiday

ice rink a reality until two major issues became insurmountable for both parties: time and money.

Freezing a large expanse of ice and keeping it frozen for six weeks is an expensive venture. The cost of operating a temporary ice rink for the holiday period was projected at \$500,000, a portion of which could be recovered through skating fees. In other cities, this expense is offset through corporate sponsorships that are secured well in advance of the rink's opening.

In view of the current economic climate, neither the city nor SJAM could risk installing a temporary ice rink that might not recoup all operating expenses.

The city and SJAM are already working on developing a plan that includes sponsorships, location and a secure funding plan to present a holiday ice rink in November 2009. SJAM is committed to offering the highest quality skating experience for the residents of Pleasanton and we look forward to a very long partnership with the community.

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

Letters

Thank you for support in Foothill Golf Classic

Dear Editor,

I wanted to thank all of our volunteers who helped make the Foothill Golf Classic a success. We had a great afternoon of golf, including a putting contest (winner Ray Schmidt), the golf tournament (a tie between Ron Lambert, Jason Jones, and Chris Camacho and the Larry Payne, Don McGlinchy, Bob McGlinchy, and our principle John Dwyer.) Non-golfers enjoyed a wine tasting hosted by Erin Vanderzee, Retzlaff Winery and Stony Ridge Winery. Guests were treated to a trip dinner donated by Ken Mercer (Pleasanton Garbage Service), all side dishes supplied by Tomatina restaurant in Dublin. There were several raffle prizes, silent auction and the grand prize a 52-inch HDTV. Guests enjoyed live music by U Get What U Pay 4.

We appreciate you taking your valuable time to help make our school, and sports program, the best in the area. Thank you. A special thanks to our event coordinators Sharon Shevelson, Sandy Rowney and Jon Burchett for their tireless work.

We also want to thank our sponsors, including Hatch and Heather Graham (ATA Ventures), Webcor

Construction, RAS Construction, San Jose Stealth, Fremont Bank, Brian Keller Masonry, Appliance Parts Distributor, UNCLE Credit Union, Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton Fairways Golf Center/Jetter Golf, W.H. Mayer Accountancy Corp, Hyatt Summerfield Suites, A Tasteful Affair Catering, Simpson Strong Tie, Diversified Capital Funding, John Lange/Suffolk Benefits, Mike Lambrecht/Charles Schwab Inc, Air Serve, Jeff Bowser for school board, Doug Buenz/Alain Pinel Realtors, Tomatina restaurant, Pleasanton Garbage Service, Bibiane Bakery and Retzlaff Vineyards.

Doug Buenz, FAB President

Prop. 8 supporters, opponents behaved themselves

As one who has been extremely active in the Prop. 8 campaign, I would like to commend those who have conducted themselves with dignity and refrained from name-calling and negative accusations. This issue has been extremely emotional on both sides and it has been disheartening to be accused of being a bigot and worse. I thank the Weekly for providing a forum online to voice all opinions.

Jane Barlow, Pleasanton

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Where: Amador Valley High School Library
 When: Thursday, November 13, 2008 7-9 PM
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 James is a senior trainer on the 40 Developmental Assets® for Search Institute and the author of "Stopping at Every Lemonade Stand"

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To register, Call: Amador Adult School (925) 426-4280
 For more information, visit www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/adulted

Community Pulse

Police Bulletin

\$20,000 reward for suspect in horse shootings

Donations from the East Bay SPCA and the public have resulted in a \$20,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction of the person or people responsible for killing two horses and a calf at a private ranch near Livermore.

The horses were found the morning of Oct. 22 in a pasture on Collier Canyon road in Contra Costa County, while the calf was discovered on a nearby property on Manning Road in Alameda County.

Authorities said the autopsy and witness reports led them to believe the shootings happened at 9:30 p.m. Oct. 21. A white Acura TSX model from 2004-07 with a loud muffler reportedly crashed into a barbed wire fence on Manning Road around 9:30 p.m. Investigators said the car would be scratched with a broken taillight and the driver may be a person of interest.

The two horses, named Choctaw and Lucky, worked on the Rountree's Collier Canyon Road ranch, owned by Michael and Marianne Rountree, with sick and developmentally disabled children.

"It is tragic and frightening that someone would have such disregard for life," said East Bay SPCA

Operation Director Amelia Funghi. "That disregard caused two innocent and beautiful animals needless suffering and the loss of their lives."

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to call Scott Sutherland with the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department at 313-2654, or the Alameda County Sheriff's Department at 510-667-7721.

Politics appear to be motive of vandals

A home in the 3900 block of Kern Court was vandalized in the early hours of Nov. 5 and the owners believe it was politically motivated.

Phil Patrick filed a police report after their Barack Obama sign was slashed, their house egged and spray painted and their car tires were slashed. He said it wasn't the first time they had trouble, as their Obama signs were trashed prior to Tuesday's election.

"It's a great accomplishment that Obama was elected, but what's happened to us is evidence that there is still a lot of strong feelings burning in the hearts of some people," he said. "We still have a ways to go."

Patrick also mentioned that a friend parked in front of a house with an Obama sign had their car windows smashed.

As of press time, police were still developing reports and couldn't confirm the number of politically-motivated vandalism.

Police Report

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

Oct. 27

- Burglary:
 - 4:08 p.m. in the 7800 block of Lafayette Court
- Vandalism:
 - 8:25 a.m. in the 6500 block of Lansing Court
 - 8:30 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road
 - 10:32 a.m. at the intersection of Kollin Street and Garatti Court
 - 10:39 a.m. at the intersection of Kollin and Oxsen streets
- Public drunkenness:
 - 2:16 a.m. in the 5900 block of Owens Drive
 - 4:02 p.m. in the 100 block of Neal Street
- Battery:
 - 8:47 a.m. in the 900 block of Rose Avenue

Oct. 28

- Theft:
 - 8:59 a.m. in the 600 block of Palomino Drive; petty theft
 - 10:53 a.m. in the 3100 block of Ascot Court; petty theft
 - 11:40 a.m. in the 500 block of Boulder Court; grand theft
 - 4:00 p.m. in the 4600 block of Mason Street; petty theft
 - 4:07 p.m. in the 5500 block of Springdale Avenue; grand theft
 - 5:34 p.m. in the 500 block of Malbec Court; petty theft
- Burglary:
 - 3:52 p.m. in the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road; vehicular
 - 5:39 p.m. in the 1400 block of Springdale Avenue shoplifting
- Vandalism:
 - 11:58 a.m. in the 1200 block of Machado Place; worth over \$400

Oct. 29

- Theft:
 - 7:24 a.m. in the 4400 block of

- Black Avenue; petty theft
 - 10:08 a.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; petty theft
 - 1:06 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hummingbird Road; grand theft
 - 1:25 p.m. in the 4300 block of First Street; identity theft
 - 3:12 p.m. in the 5000 block of Hopyard Road; petty theft
 - 7:54 p.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive; petty theft

Oct. 30

- Theft:
 - 11:42 a.m. in the 3700 block Crofters Court; forgery
 - 12:42 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; forgery
 - 1:12 p.m. in the 100 block of Neal Street; stolen vehicle
 - 6:57 p.m. in the 5000 block of Independence Drive
- Burglary:
 - 11:10 p.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road
- Alcohol violations:
 - 12:08 a.m. in the 5700 block of Sunol Boulevard; public

- drunkenness
 - 6:08 p.m. in the 9500 block of Santos Ranch Road; DUI
- Robbery:
 - 2:57 p.m. in the 500 block of Main Street

Oct. 31

- Theft:
 - 5:55 a.m. in the 4400 block of Black Avenue; petty theft
 - 6:16 p.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive; grand theft
- Burglary:
 - 1:59 a.m. in the 4000 block of Pimlico Drive
- Vandalism:
 - 11:21 a.m. in the 3400 block of Boulder Street; worth less than \$400
 - 5:59 p.m. in the 4200 block of Katie Lane; worth less than \$400
 - 6:49 p.m. at the intersection of Stanley Boulevard and Valley Avenue

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

Wednesday, November 12, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

• Input on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the General Plan Update

To provide an opportunity for public comment from the Planning Commission on the Draft Environmental Impact Report on the Draft General Plan.

• Review and Consideration of the Draft General Plan

To provide an opportunity to review the Draft General Plan and provide comment.

• PCUP-229, John Pfund, Tri-Valley Martial Arts Academy

Application for a conditional use permit to allow the operation of the following at 1262 Quarry Lane, Suite A, in the Valley Business Park: (1) a martial arts/childcare facility, Monday through Friday, from 11:30 a.m. to 6:15 p.m.; (2) full-time childcare program camps during school breaks and holidays; and (3) evening martial arts classes, Monday through Friday, from 6:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

• PCUP-224, Little Ivy League School

Application for a conditional use permit to operate a tutorial school with a maximum of 90 students located at 5925 West Las Positas Boulevard, Suite 200.

Youth Commission

Wednesday, November 12, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Boulevard

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

Parks & Recreation Commission

Thursday, November 13, 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

Thursday, November 13, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Library Community Room, 400 Old Bernal Avenue

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

Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee

- The November 10th meeting of the YMPIC has been cancelled. The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2008.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Employment Opportunities

- Assistant House Manager – Part-Time, Temporary
- Police Officer, Lateral or Academy Graduate – Full-Time, Permanent
- Senior Civil Engineer – Full-Time, Permanent
- Utilities Superintendent - Full-Time, Permanent

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

2009 GRANT APPLICATION WORKSHOPS

The Cities of Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton are co-sponsoring application workshops for the following programs for FY 2009 (09-10): Dublin Community Development Block Grant, Livermore Housing and Human Services Grant, Pleasanton Community Development Block Grant, Pleasanton City Grant. Staff will discuss the application processes, and will distribute application packets. **Attendance is mandatory to apply for City of Livermore funding and strongly encouraged for the Cities of Dublin and Pleasanton.** Please choose one workshop to attend and RSVP as indicated below.

Date: Monday, December 8, 2008
Time: 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm
Location: Pleasanton City Council Chambers
200 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton

Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2008
Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Location: Livermore City Council Chambers
3575 Pacific Avenue, Livermore

To RSVP for a workshop, please contact Tim Shurtleff at 925-960-4016 or tmshurtleff@ci.livermore.ca.us

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

ON THE TOWN



AMERICAN

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.

Eddie Papa's American Hangout

4889 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 469-6266. Winner of The Pleasanton Weekly's Reader Choice Awards for "Best American Food Restaurant" and "Best Meal under \$20", Eddie Papa's American Hangout celebrates the regional food and beverage cultures of America. Bring the whole family to enjoy iconic dishes from across the United States, Old World Hospitality, and hand crafted artisan cocktails.

www.eddiepapas.com

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.

BARBECUE

Red Smoke Grill

4501 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 734-0307. Home of the Tri Tip and Blue, Red Smoke Grill was Voted Reader's Choice Best 2006, 2007, 2008. 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.

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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. Now accepting reservations for holiday parties.

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.

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ON THE TOWN



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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.

JAPANESE

Kokoro Sushi Japanese Restaurant

Now open for lunch and dinner daily. Take out orders and catering available. Serving a variety of regular sushi rolls and Nigiri Sushi daily. Full Japanese dining menu items including: Teriyaki Dishes, Bento Boxes Yakisoba, Udon Soup, Salads and Appetizers. Business Hours: Monday-Friday 11AM - 9:30PM; Saturday 12PM - 9:30PM; Sunday 5PM - 9:30PM Phone: 417-2206 Located in the remodeled Vintage Hills Shopping Center at 3550 Bernal Ave #130 in Pleasanton.

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.

To have your restaurant listed in this dining directory, please call the Pleasanton Weekly Advertising Department at (925) 600-0840



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Calendar

Author Visits

Douglas Kendall to Sign Books at Borders Local author Douglas Kendall will be signing his latest book, "America's Reigning Cats and Dogs," as well as "America's Backside," from 1 to 3 p.m. Nov. 8 at Borders, 4575 Rosewood Drive. Call 200-3200.

Careers

Career Workshop by Dear Jane Rebecca, a.k.a. Dear Jane, will present her Career Tips Booklet and answer questions about utilizing recruiting and search firms to get a job from 2 to 4 p.m. Nov. 9 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Her work, "83 Tips for Working with Corporate and External Recruiters," is a practical guide for job seekers.

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 during the school year 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.

Class Reunions

Granada High School Class of 1989 Reunion The reunion committee for Granada High School Class of 1989 in Livermore is searching for classmates to celebrate their 20th year reunion. It will be held Sept. 5, 2009. For information, visit www.GHS1989.net.

Classes

Basic Yoga Class Beth Fox instructs this basic yoga class that meets from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Mondays at Lynnewood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave. No previous yoga experience necessary. Limited class

supplies available. Fees are \$12 for drop-in or \$10 for pre-paid series. Inquire about seniors or students rates. Call 200-4060.

Clubs

Chess Club Residents are trying to start a Pleasanton Chess Club, primarily for kids. Anyone interested can email PleasantonChess@yahoo.com. Please provide email address, name, phone number and USCF rating, if any. Pleasanton.

Daughters of the American Revolutions The Jose Maria Amador Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution holds its monthly meeting at 9:30 a.m. Nov. 8. Members are descendants of the patriots of the Revolutionary War of independence from England. Prospective members welcome. Call 699-4147.

Dive Trippers Dive Club Meeting Come join us for the November meeting of the Dive Trippers Dive Club, the Tri-Valley's newest dive club. They meet at 7 p.m. the second Thursday monthly at Dive N Trips Dive Center, 1032 Serpentine Lane, ste. 108. Call 462-7234 or visit www.diventrips.com.

Hearing Loss Association of America The Tri-Valley chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America meets at 7 p.m. Nov. 20 at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Pkwy. Local audiologist Deborah McMenamin will discuss over-the-counter and prescription drugs. For more information, email hvanblarigan@hotmail.com.

Tri-Valley Holistic Moms Network

The group meets at 7 p.m. Nov. 17 at Living Vine Fellowship, 4100 First St. Dr. James Stalker will discuss Advanced Allergy Therapeutics (AAT), which is a non invasive method of allergy elimination without drugs, shots, supplements or herbal remedies. AAT applies to all forms of allergies. Call 922-7615 or visit www.holisticmoms.org.

Concerts

Free Family Concert If you like the music The Carnival of Animals, Pictures at an Exhibition, Peter and the Wolf, and Star Wars, then you will enjoy the free Family Concert, presented by the Pleasanton Community Concert Band, at 2 p.m. Nov. 16 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Music teachers from local schools will provide narration. Doors open at 1:40 p.m. Call 846-5897 or visit www.pleasantonband.org.

Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel Romantically inspired, stirring compositions by one of music's most popular composers will be performed at 8 p.m. Nov. 18 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$30-\$45 or \$12 for students. Call 373-6800 or visit www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

Events

Antique Roadshow and Tea From 1 to 3 p.m. Nov. 15 a local antique dealer will do appraisals at Lynnewood Methodist Church, 4444

Christmas Tree Lane presents

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Thursday, November 20th • Friday, November 21st • Saturday, November 22nd
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Photos with Santa • Children's Secret Santa Shoppe • Stroll in Winter Wonderland
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— FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2008 —
TINSEL TEAS: 10AM – NOON AND 2 – 4PM
"Almost High" Tea • Christmas Trees Preview • Silent Auction • \$30 per person
SILENT NIGHT SOIRÉE: 6:30 – 11:00PM
Sit-down Dinner • Entertainment • Silent Auction • \$75 per person

— SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2008 —
SILVER BELLS LUNCHEON: 10:30AM – 1:30PM
Gourmet Luncheon • Live Entertainment • Christmas Tree Drawings • \$85 per person



Proceeds will benefit ValleyCare's Emergency Room Expansion Campaign and the ValleyCare Health Library and Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center.

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____ Family Stroll — \$10.00 per adult. Kids 12 and under free.
____ children will attend — free

____ Tinsel Tea, Nov 21, 10AM — Noon, ticket(s) \$30 per person
____ Tinsel Tea, Nov 21, 10AM — Noon, table for 10 at \$300

____ Tinsel Tea, Nov 21, 2 — 4PM, ticket(s) \$30 per person
____ Tinsel Tea, Nov 21, 2 — 4PM, table for 10 at \$300

____ Silent Night Soirée, Nov. 21, ticket(s) at \$75 per person
____ Silent Night Soirée, Nov. 21, table for 8 at \$600

____ Saturday Luncheon, Nov. 22, ticket(s) at \$85 per person
____ Saturday Luncheon, Nov. 22, table for 10 at \$850

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Black Ave. while the Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin Branch American Association of University Women provide tea and refreshments. Cost is \$15 for an appraisal, and \$5 for tea. Call 846-9136.

Blast from the Past Singles Dance Single professionals of all ages are invited to meet new friends while dancing to hits from the '60s and '70s from 8 p.m. to midnight Nov. 8 at the Marriott Hotel, 11950 Dublin Canyon Road. Sponsored by the Society of Single Professionals, tickets are \$20 at the door. Call 415-507-9962 or visit www.thepartyhotline.com.

Free Car Wash for Veterans Veterans can receive a free car wash Nov. 11 at Autopia Car Wash, 220 N. L St., Livermore, and all Bay Area locations.

Lights of the Valley Tree Lighting Join neighbors and friends for a warm and meaningful evening of holiday entertainment and treats from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 19 at the Heritage Bank of Commerce, 300 Main St. A donation to Hope Hospice adds a symbolic light or star to our Tree of Life in honor of a loved one. Add their name to our lighted Wreath of Remembrance. Porcelain angels also available. Call Pattie, 829-8770 or visit www.hopehospice.com.

Pleasantonians 4 Peace Pleasantonians 4 Peace sponsors a candlelight vigil in front of the Museum on Main, 603 Main St., the second Wednesday of the month. They will reflect on the human and monetary costs of the war, honor veterans who have sacrificed and visualize ways of moving beyond this conflict to a more peaceful world. Following the vigil is a peaceful march to City Hall. Contact Cathie Norman, 462-7495; Matt Sullivan, mjs7882@gmail.com; or kdowning@pacbell.net.

Sunol Junk 'N Treasure Fest Sunol Junk 'N Treasure Fest, a reuse, reduce and recycle fair, will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 8 at the Sunol Community Park, off Main Street at Kilkare Road in Sunol. It includes a community sale and swap of gently used items, ewaste collection and recycling, as well as demonstrations on recycling, composting, art and crafting with reclaimed materials. It is organized by Sunol 4-H Green Team. Call 249-9004.

Exhibits

Disney Fine Art Event Alexander's Fine Art hosts the fine art of Rodol Gonzalez, Disney Fine Art's newest sensation. Rodol will hand embellishes six never-before-seen limited edition releases from Nov. 1 to 15 at the gallery, 608-G Main St.

Farm Life: A Century of Change in America Dublin Heritage Center will offer a National Endowment for the Humanities traveling exhibit on Farm Life: A Century of Change in America. It runs Oct. 21 through Nov. 19 at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza. Call 828-1315.

Visual Improvisations A solo show of paintings by award winning Pleasanton artist Courtney Jacobs will be on display from Oct. 30 to Dec. 1 at Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Jacobs' non-figurative work, created in oil and acrylic, is an exploration of intuition through abstract painting. Call 600-1573.

Film

The End Of America This brand new film, based on the bestseller by and starring Naomi Wolf, will be shown at 7 p.m. Nov. 15 at the IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. Meet and greet starts at 6:30 p.m., while a short discussion follows. Snacks and beverages provided. A \$3 donation is suggested.

Fundraisers

Animal Lover's Boutique The ninth

annual Animal Lover's Boutique is from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Nov. 8 at the Feline Medical Center, 3160 Santa Rita Road. Featured items include animal-related gifts such as jewelry, toys, fashion, greeting cards, home d'cor, ornaments and more. All proceeds go to the Valley Humane Society's Just Like New fund, which provides care to animals in low and fixed income families in the Tri-Valley. Call Jackie Barnett, 846-2512.

Biletnikoff Foundation Celebrity Crab Fest & Sports Auction The 9th annual Biletnikoff Foundation event is from 6 p.m. to midnight Nov. 7 at the Marriott at Bishop Ranch, 2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon. Tickets are \$120 and the attire is casual. Greg Papa, Bay Area sports broadcaster and radio voice of the Oakland Raiders, will be the master of ceremonies. Founded in the memory of Tracey Biletnikoff, whose life was brutally taken in 1999, the foundation enables young people to realize their full potential through education addressing problems related to substance abuse and gender violence. 556-2525. Tickets may be ordered online at www.biletnikoff.net.

Health

Fall Immunization Clinics for Children Clinics are from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Nov. 8 and Dec. 6 at Axis Community Health, 4361 Railroad Ave. They are open to all Tri-Valley families who are low income or uninsured, including those enrolled in Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Managed Care. Bring child's immunization records and information about family income and medical insurance. There is a fee for some immunizations. Call 462-1755.

Free Gentle Yoga Mature adults 55 and older can participate in free, gentle yoga at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays at Groves Dublin Ranch, 3115 Finnian Way, Dublin. It is great for increasing flexibility, strength, balance. Sponsored by Amador Adult Education. Call 846-6417.

Yoga for Multiple Sclerosis Every Tuesday through Dec. 30 from 1:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m., Downtown Yoga, 220 B Division St., hosts a series of gentle stretching movements that can help to reduce stress within the body. Call 462-5285.

Holiday

A Holly Day Affair 'Tis a merry time to be jolly with friends at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. Enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres, wine, dessert, raffle prizes and dancing to music of the 3 O'clock band from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Nov. 30. RSVP by Nov. 14. Tickets are \$21 for residents or \$25 for non-residents. Call 556-4511.

Craft Show Country Folk Art is back at the fairgrounds Nov. 14-16 for the Home, Holiday and Gifts craft show. Admission is \$7 or \$6 with online coupon. Visit www.countryfolkart.com.

Discovery Shop Holiday Store The American Cancer Society discovery shop holiday store, 1987 F Santa Rita Road, is open through Dec. 20 with decorations, trees and ornaments. Proceeds benefit ACS.

Downtown Magical Evening From 6 to 9 p.m. Nov. 21, the public will celebrate the holidays at Downtown Magical Evening. Downtown will come alive with the sights and sounds of the holidays including Santa, elves, carolers, choruses, bell ringers, Dana Smith and Lacey, balloon sculptors, face painters and Crackers the Clown. Call 484-2199 or visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

Facing the Holiday Blues with a Broken Heart The holidays you have dreaded are approaching, at every turn you are faced with heartache from the death of a loved one, divorce, loss of job, surgery, spouse or child in Iraq. Father Padraig will facilitate the evening at 7:30 Nov. 13 at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic

Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive. All are welcome.

Heritage Estates Holiday Boutique The seniors at Heritage Estates retirement community, 900 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore, are having a holiday boutique from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 7 and 8. The event will include hand-made crafts and home-baked goods from our residents. Call 373-3636.

Holiday Extravaganza A holiday luncheon from noon to 4 p.m. Nov. 16 benefits the Museum On Main. A fashion show featuring fashions exclusively from downtown merchants will be one of the highlights. Tickets are \$30. Call 462-2766 to reserve a spot.

Holiday Food Drive Pleasanton CPA firm, JL Consulting, is coordinating a holiday food drive benefiting people in need served by the Alameda County Community Food Bank. Donations of nutritious, non-perishable foods can

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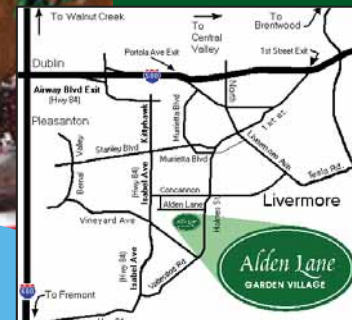
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Pleasanton Real Estate News



by
Gerarda
Stocking

MORE ENTHUSIASM FOR SOLAR POWER

Buyers are showing a clear enthusiasm for newly-built homes that have solar power equipment installed. Some believe this is the boost that solar power systems need to start selling in more significant quantities.

In a slower real estate market, homebuilders are especially sensitive to incentives that catch potential buyers' interest. Buyers have been showing up at new home open houses where the homes feature solar power. Part of the response is curiosity; part of it is a growing desire to decrease energy costs in their new homes.

Retrofitting a home with solar power equipment is costly, of course, even though it holds out the eventual promise of paying for itself (often in roughly 20 years) and providing the homeowner with the pleasure of selling electricity back to the local utilities. In many cases, the cost of purchasing of solar power equipment is reduced by local, state and federal energy-saving programs.

The possibility of buying a new home that is fully equipped for solar power, though, lessens the sense that the buyer is paying a premium for the equipment. Some builders are using the equipment much as they use incentives like free landscaping—and buyers are responding with great interest. For help with real estate call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

Gerarda Stocking is the Owner/Broker of Stocking Realty.

be dropped off at 1024 Serpentine Lane, Ste. 105 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays until Dec. 19. Call 846-1859 or email info@jlcpa.net.

National Charity League Holiday Boutique Shop for fashionable accessories, unique jewelry, artisan chocolates, pet accessories, school graduation leis and cosmetics in a home uniquely decorated for the holidays by Milfleur of Pleasanton. The boutique is from 4 to 7 p.m. Nov. 18 at 1279 Hearst Drive. All proceeds will fund our philanthropy projects.

ValleyCare Auxiliary Holiday Boutiques The ValleyCare Auxiliary will hold their annual Holiday Boutiques Nov. 6-8 in the main lobby at ValleyCare Medical Center, 5555 West Las Positas Boulevard; Nov. 17 in the lobby of LifeStyleRx in Livermore. Boutique hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. or 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

Kids & Teens

Return to the Center of the Earth Step into the 19th-century imagination of Jules Verne as La Legion Fantastique visits the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., at 2 p.m. Nov. 8. Larger than life Victorian-era science fiction characters share a tongue-in-cheek report of an ill-fated expedition to the earth's core. For ages 8 and older.

Lectures/ Workshops

Researching, Writing and Marketing Historical Fiction At the next meeting of the California Writers Club Tri-Valley Branch, Janis Cooke Newman, author of a novel about Mary Todd Lincoln, and Jordan Biro of the California Council for the Promotion of History discuss how to research, write and market historical

fiction. The meeting is at 11:30 Nov. 15 at Oasis Grille, 780 Main St. The cost is \$21 for members or \$27 for non-members. Call 462-7495 for reservations.

Live Music

The Kyle Eastwood Band Kyle Eastwood brings his pop- and soul-influenced music to the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore at 8 p.m. Nov. 11. Tickets are \$12 for students or \$25-\$50. Call 373-6800 or visit www.bankheadtheater.org. And yes, he's Clint's son.

On Stage

Miss Saigon "Miss Saigon" is a classic love story brought up-to-date in one of the most stunning theatrical spectacles of all time. Shows run through Nov. 9 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$36 for adults, \$34 for seniors and \$26 for students. Call 462-2121 or visit www.trivalleyrep.org.

Shakespeare in Hollywood Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Drive, Livermore, presents "Shakespeare in Hollywood," a madcap farce about the creation of the 1935 Max Reinhardt film version of "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Written by Ken Ludwig, the author of "Lend Me a Tenor" and "Moon Over Buffalo." Shows are at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and at 2 p.m. Sundays Nov. 14 to 23. Tickets are \$10 general admission; or \$7 for students and seniors. Call 424-1166.

Shakespeare on Tour The San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's "Shakespeare on Tour" presents Romeo and Juliet at 2 p.m. Nov. 16 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. This production has a unique Californian twist with Day of the Dead style masks and costumes.

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Recreation

REI Ridge Trail Service Day The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council and REI host REI Ridge Trail Service Day from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 15. with 10 volunteer trail work projects around the Bay Area. Call 415-561-2595 or visit ridgetrail.org.

Seniors

Brain Matters Lecture Kathryn Tourant of Bella Menti Learning Solutions will discuss how our brains function, and how to tap the memories and thoughts in the corners of our minds at 10 a.m. Nov. 14 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call 931-5365.

Spiritual

Bible Study Fellowship The 33-week study of The Life of Moses begins Sept. 8. Women's classes meet at 9:25 a.m. Wednesdays at Cedar Grove Church, Livermore; and 6:55 p.m. Mondays at Valley Community Church, Pleasanton. Men's class meets at 6:55 p.m. Tuesdays at Community Presbyterian Church in Danville. Call 877-273-3228.

Choral Evensong Discover a uniquely Anglican and beautiful choral worship service at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, beginning at 5:15 p.m. Nov. 9. Close the day with psalms and hymns, then stay and enjoy the fellowship of a potluck supper. All are welcome. Call 462-4802 or visit www.stclarespleasanton.org.

Christian Healing Rev. Steve Maynard's new five-week class is on Christian healing, based on Charles Fillmore's book by the same name. This classic book presents the basic metaphysical teachings from the beginning of the Unity movement, and we'll be learning how to let these principles live in our lives. The class is from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays or from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays. Held at Tri-Valley Unity's Gathering Place, 7567 Amador Valley Blvd., #120, Dublin. Copies of the book are \$10. Call 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

Dedicated to the One We Love Dedicated to the One We Love: Peacemaking as Sacred Service is the topic of Rev. Steve Maynard's lesson at 10 a.m. Nov. 9 at Tri-Valley Unity Church, meeting at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. The service will also feature Marine Corps Vietnam veteran Tony Mustapich, who will speak about reconciliation, in honor of Veteran's Day, and will show slides from his tour of duty in Vietnam in 1965-66, as well as slides from his recent return trip, which illustrate the themes of healing, hope and inspiration. All are welcome. Call 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

Faith Chapel Assembly of God Faith Chapel Assembly of God, 6656 Alisal St., has Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 a.m. and worship at 10:30 a.m., with nursery for both services. Children's church, ages 3-12, meets at 11:15 a.m. Women's Bible study meets at 10 a.m. Wednesdays. A prayer at 6 p.m. is held the first and third Monday of the month. Call 846-8650 for more programs.

Returning Catholics Program Inactive & Returning Catholics: Consider this an invitation to take another look at the Catholic church. We provide discussion of important issues in today's church, education on current belief and practice. Tell your story and renew your faith in a supportive and non-judgmental environment. Meetings are from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr. Call 474-2760.

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

PLC Girls New Player Festival Pleasanton Lacrosse Club is hosting a Girls New Player Festival for girls in first through eighth grades from 1 to 3 p.m. Nov. 16 at Hart Middle School, 4433 Willow Road. It costs \$39 and includes stick and ball. Register at www.pleasantonlacrosse.com. Space is limited and sign-ups for 2009 spring season are also open.

Support Groups

Parenting Your Aging Parent Parenting Your Aging Parent is a free monthly class designed for baby boomers who are sandwiched between the needs of their growing children, the needs of their aging parents and other relatives, and their own needs. Instructor Ruth Gasten has taught parenting classes in the valley for over 35 years. Classes are at 7 p.m. held once a month at Amador Valley High School's library, 1155 Santa Rita Road, and the Nov. 19 class features Ann Fowler, a case manager for Senior Support Services, offering help in handling family conflict. Register at 426-4280 or sign in at the class.

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.

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