

Merry Main Street

Community to gather for Saturday parade > **page 5**

Vol. IX, Number 45 • December 5, 2008

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Welcome home

Marine returns from service in Iraq

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PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Shows of the season

Stages packed with winter entertainment

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MAN OF THE YEAR

Foothill's 'Music Man' Bob Moorefield marches toward retirement **PAGE 12**



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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Christmas trees, RV style

Ever wonder what those people who have brightly lighted Christmas tree lots do the rest of the year? I did, so I asked Kimberly and Jerry Peterson when I bought our tree at their lot at Wyoming and Washington streets, an otherwise-bare piece of land along Stanley Boulevard just south of the McDonald's on Bernal. They're truly the modern-day version of nomads, with their only home being the RV parked next to the tree sales tent. Kimberly's from the Detroit area, Jerry from Las Vegas, and they met and married 13 years ago in Phoenix. That's still their home, I guess, since their only stationary piece of property is a post office box in nearby Peoria, Ariz. Kimberly was a corporate-type, working for American Express and other companies. Jerry was in the tile installation business. But they shared a longstanding dream each had nurtured over the years: to travel the country, live and work where they wanted, and to determine their own destiny. Just before Kimberly's brother Jeffrey died at age 40, he learned of her dream and urged her to "get going" because we don't know how much time we have. That was it and the Petersons have been on the road ever since.

Tipped off to check www.workcamper.com, they found all sorts of jobs on this special Website for adventurous individuals who want to combine part-time and full-time work with RV camping. At first, they didn't own an RV but used the Website to find temporary work that included housing, with one job as campground managers in Minnesota lasting six months and paying good money. That gave them funds to buy an RV and start traveling, again using Workcamper to check in for two-to-three week jobs, including one at the NASCAR racetrack in Daytona, Fla. With Jerry a tall, muscular man and

Kimberly an experienced office manager, they won the praise of the Daytona track operators, who keep inviting them back. Daytona has also alerted other NASCAR operations throughout the country, each with fixed race dates and job opportunities, keeping the Petersons on the road much of the year. They've now visited/worked in 30 states with Pete's Christmas tree lot in Pleasanton the farthest west they've come.

Selling Christmas trees is a tough job at start, picking the best trees off the truck and mounting them individually for easy customer viewing. Pete's Trees are fresh-cut from Oregon, and they're shipped to the lot the Petersons manage or Pete's other lots in Concord, Walnut Creek, Saratoga and one on Hopyard next to the Masonic Lodge. Once they've got the holes in place and their flocking and netting machines in operation, Jerry manages to the crew of high school teenagers who work the lot while Kimberly handles the cash register. Open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week through Dec. 24, both can take short breaks in their nearby RV. Pete's also has a roving team that goes from lot to lot to give managers a day off each week.

The Petersons will clean up Pete's lot before leaving Dec. 28 for a three-day visit to San Francisco, which Kimberly has never seen. Then it's off for a brief family visit in Las Vegas, a mail pickup in Phoenix and another 2,000 miles or so to Daytona where the NASCAR track wants them in place by Jan. 19. Will they be back? "We hope so," Kimberly says. "The weather's great. The city's great. We've enjoyed meeting some of the best people we've gotten to know."

For more information, check out the Peterson's Website, appropriately named: www.hitheroad-jackenterprises.com. ■

About the Cover

Bob Moorefield, shown with his wife Anne at the Veterans Day Parade Nov. 2, has been at the helm of the Foothill High School Marching Band since its inception in 1972. He will step down at the end of the school year in June and he will be missed by the thousands of students who proudly marched under his instruction. Photo by Ellen Holmgren.

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Streetwise

Q: What can we do to help local charities that are in greater need than ever?

Asked around town



Marty Crowningshield

I think people need to have a better attitude about giving and understand that we're all in this together. People have similar physical and emotional needs and if we just learn to treat each other better and try not to judge, we can help so many more in need.

Michael Wallace

Even though the economy is bad right now, I think we just need to keep reminding ourselves that as tough as it is for some of us right now, it's much tougher for others.



Marcella Janota

I think that people are hesitant to donate because there are so many charities out there asking for money and people are unsure if they are legitimate or not. I never donate money to the people outside of the grocery stores because I don't know if my money is actually going to a good cause. If these charities would focus more on educating people through legitimate advertising then I'd feel more comfortable donating my money.



Mike Morrison

This is a really tough question to answer since the economy is affecting how so many of us spend our money. I would really like to help more, but it's hard to donate when I have to be more careful of how I spend my money nowadays. Unfortunately it takes money to help run charities and it becomes difficult for people when they need to tighten their own belts.



Tod Pohlmann

If people just realize that a little can go a long way, I think that would help tremendously. Imagine if each person in the town of Pleasanton donates just one dollar; if we can get out of the mindset that donations have to be large amounts of money per person, then we can all make a huge financial difference for these charities.



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

Compiled by Hillary Bessiere

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Newsfront

News Digest

Remembering Mr. Mohatt

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7 for longtime Amador Valley High School teacher and coach Everett (Skip) Mohatt, who died Nov. 21. It will be held in Amador's boys gym, which is named for Mr. Mohatt.

Police reach out

The Pleasanton Police Officers Association Charitable Foundation is back with the Giving Tree Program. Tags from the front lobby of the police station on Bernal Avenue show wish lists for local families. Wrapped gifts should be returned before Dec. 15. Call Officer Daly Harnish at 931-5100.

Help for stressed students

A free workshop from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday at the Amador Valley High School library, 1155 Santa Rita Road, helps students with time and stress management. It's designed for high school students, their parents and parents of middle school students. Pre-register at 426-4280 or email publicinfo@pleasanton.k12.ca.us.

Send DVDs to the troops

The Rotary Club of Pleasanton North and the School of Imagination are collecting new and used DVDs to donate to military. DVDs (no VHS) may be dropped off by Dec. 15 at all UNCLE Credit Union locations; Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce; Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department; Black Tie Transportation; Aventine Spa in Livermore; School of Imagination in Dublin; Valley Community Bank; and Big O Tires.

Corrections

- The date for the Valley Concert Chorale performance in "Voices of the season" (Living, Nov. 28, page 21) was incorrect. The performances are Saturday, Dec. 6 and Sunday, Dec. 7.

- The word "outpatient" in a quote was incorrect in the story, "Workers reeling after WaMu layoffs," (News, Nov. 28, page 5). The quote should have read, "We will be offering (workers) outplacement services and creating an online job network, helping those employees learn about other opportunities inside and outside the company."

Woman hijacks highway patrol car

Pleasanton authorities kept busy Monday with high-speed chase, mugging, robbery

Monday was a busy day for local law enforcement as they dealt with a high-speed chase, a mugging attempt and the robbery of a fast food restaurant.

An alleged purse snatcher was arrested after two witnesses chased after him and kept him from driving off in a motorcycle. Dwight Admues Mondaime, a 21-year-old resident of Gilroy, was charged with robbery and assault with a deadly weapon.

Mondaime, wearing a white button-up shirt and jeans, reportedly followed a 23-year-old Hayward woman and grabbed her purse from behind as she left Stoneridge

Shopping Center at about 9 a.m. near the Fresh Choice restaurant. Police said the woman was thrown to the ground as the suspect ran away.

Two witnesses are said to have chased Mondaime and caught him trying to leave on a motorcycle. At this time, police said Mondaime and the witnesses fought over the keys and the suspect appeared to stab one witness in the leg with a key. He fled on foot towards Foothill Road.

A police officer responding to the call saw the suspect run into the wooded area adjacent to Foothill Road and Laurel Creek. They later found and arrested him. He was transported to ValleyCare Medical

Center before being booked in Santa Rita Jail.

The woman's purse and contents were located and returned. Pleasanton police said she suffered only minor injuries from falling.

At 3:40 in the afternoon, a woman reportedly hijacked a California Highway Patrol car in Sunol, leading officers on a high-speed chase on northbound Interstate 680 until she flipped the patrol car over in an embankment near the Stoneridge Drive exit, according to authorities.

The woman, identified as 19-year-old Itse Murillo Orozco of San Jose, had been the passenger in a 1995 Acura Integra traveling on the

freeway that a highway patrol car signaled to pull over in Fremont. Instead of pulling over, the male driver, identified as 26-year-old Miguel Velasquez, also of San Jose, continued driving 70 to 80 mph, suddenly exiting off the Calaveras Road exit in Sunol, according to CHP spokesman Steve Creel.

Officers used a maneuver with the patrol car to stop the vehicle, which worked, but both the driver and the passenger fled the scene. Creel said officers apprehended Orozco, put her in handcuffs and sat her in the backseat of the patrol car.

(continued on page 10)



Members of the Balloon Platoon, which was organized by real estate developer Brad Hirst in 1973, are a crowd favorite each year in the Hometown Holidays parade. The platoon has performed all over the country, including in Scotland.

Balloon Platoon, canine clubs to help lead parade Saturday

Hometown Holidays Celebration culminates with lighting of holiday tree

The beloved Balloon Platoon, car clubs, dog clubs, the City Council, the mayor and Congressman Jerry McNerney are among those who will stroll down Main Street Saturday evening during the annual Hometown Holidays Celebration.

The parade, hosted by the city of Pleasanton, kicks off at 5:30 p.m. downtown. This year's theme is "Sights and Sounds of the Season" and more than 50 parade entries have signed up to decorate floats and marching units.

Once again, the Livermore-Pleasanton

Fire Department will lead the effort to collect Toys for Tots at the Hometown Holidays celebration. Visitors can bring new, unwrapped toys to drop in Toys for Tots bins located at each of the three stages set up on Main Street. Main Street will close to vehicular traffic at 4 p.m. Saturday.

As the parade winds down, there will be a lighting of the holiday tree in front of the Museum On Main. For more information about the event, call Becky Hopkins at 931-3432.

—Janet Pelletier

Duffield is back

PeopleSoft founder moving new company to Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Dave Duffield, the charismatic billionaire founder of PeopleSoft, is back in Pleasanton again with a new human resources and financial management solutions business that may have even more global market potential as the software powerhouse he launched 21 years ago.

Duffield started PeopleSoft in 1987, hired technology guru Anel Bhusri 1992, and moved PeopleSoft from Walnut Creek to Pleasanton where the company became the city's biggest employer with more than 5,000 on its worldwide payroll.

In 2004, after a relentless pursuit by Oracle Corp. and its chairman Larry Ellison, Duffield bowed to shareholders and sold PeopleSoft to Oracle to \$10.3 billion, an offer PeopleSoft's board couldn't refuse.

Duffield, who had returned to PeopleSoft from retirement to lead its defense against a hostile buyout by Oracle, said a tearful goodbye to hundreds of employees in Pleasanton who expected termination notices, and he returned to his home and family in Lake Tahoe.

Now he's back, committing \$48 million in Workday along with his trusted lieutenant Bhusri, now a partner at Greylock Partners, who has also invested \$12 million in the new company. Workday sells software to big companies that they can access over the Web to run payroll, asset-tracking and other financials, which Duffield sees as an alternative to the suite of huge applications required by Oracle or SAP.

Following the same pattern as with PeopleSoft as it rapidly became a standard in its field with rapid growth, Duffield now is moving Workday from Walnut Creek to Pleasanton, taking space in the now-empty five-story E-Loan building between I-680 and Stoneridge Shopping Center, just south of I-580.

He told Pleasanton officials that Pleasanton, with its excellent major freeway interchange location and a second BART transit station set to open next year near the E-Loan office building, is an ideal headquarters site for high tech and software companies. At the start, 300 employees will be transferring to the new Workday location early next year.

"Workday delivers HR and financial management solutions via modern Software-as-a-Service (SaaS)," said Workday's spokeswoman Christine Cefalo.

"Since our launch in November 2006, we have been

(continued on page 9)

Oak Grove developers seek court OK to proceed

Lin family argues that Ayala, citizens' group's appeal lacks merit

by Jeb Bing

Developers Jennifer Lin and brother Frederic have asked the state Court of Appeal to deny a bid by a citizens' coalition to overturn a lower court ruling that, in effect, would allow them to proceed with their Oak Grove project on 562 acres of wooded land in Pleasanton's southeast hills.

In a 50-page brief with another 20 pages of attachments, the Lins, through their attorney Andrew B. Sabey, argue that Save Pleasanton's Hills coalition and its founder, former City Councilwoman Kay Ayala, have no basis for challenging a decision of Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch, who ruled that a petition by the group was invalid. The petition, which Ayala said had more than 5,000 signatures from registered voters in Pleasanton, called for a public vote aimed at repealing a City Council decision to allow the Oak Grove project to proceed.

The petition, Roesch ruled, failed to comply with state law that requires all relevant materials related to the petition to be carried by those seeking signatures. In the case of Ayala and her coalition, representatives failed to have

a number of documents Roesch said were vital to offer to those interested in signing the petition.

"Among (the group's) many omissions of text," Sabey argues in his brief, the referendum petition as circulated for signature...did not include a copy of the development plan, the focal point of and actual legislation adopted by the PUD (Planned United Development) ordinance (the group) seeks to referend."

The Lins, again through Sabey and other lawyers with his San Francisco law firm, asked City Clerk Karen Diaz on Dec. 5, 2007, to reject the petitions Ayala and her group had delivered. The next day, City Attorney Michael Roush advised Diaz to continue processing the petitions, an action that led the Lins to file a suit in Judge Roesch's court asking that the petitions be declared invalid. On Feb. 22 of this year, Roesch agreed and tossed out the petitions.

Ayala and the citizens' coalition have appealed that ruling, arguing chiefly that they carried with them all of the documents that the city attorney's office had said were relevant during the signature-gathering effort a year ago.

Roush said this week that he

never advised the coalition as to which documents or how many were needed under state law, only giving them the actual documents that were finally approved by the council at its Nov. 6, 2007 meeting.

The next day, on Nov. 7, Ayala and her group began circulating for voter signatures a referendum calling for a public vote to reverse the council's decision, which approved the Oak Grove project in a 4-1 vote with only Councilwoman Cindy McGovern opposed. Actually, there were two votes, each with the same margin of approval: one to grant the Lins their PUD request to develop 51 homesites in the hills they own atop Kottinger Ranch and the other a Development Agreement awarding 496 acres—the rest of their property—to the city of Pleasanton free of charge for uses as a park, trails, equestrian pathways and open space.

Since then, though, the Lins have been blocked from proceeding because of the Superior Court, and now the Court of Appeal litigation. Two weeks ago, the Lins won a legal side battle when Roesch ordered City Manager Nelson Fialho to officially sign the development agreement on behalf of the city, which he has since done.

In his lengthy brief, Sabey cites numerous other lawsuits that have since been resolved where courts have determined that all documents related to a proposal must be on hand for prospective signers of petitions to read if they wish. But Ayala and her group, according to Sabey, carried only the basic PUD documents with her referendum petition "not providing voters the information required to make an educated decision whether to sign."

"Since the referendum petition failed to attach the full text of the development plan, voters clearly had no way of informatively evaluating the challenged law when deciding whether to sign the petition," Sabey argues in his brief. "Accordingly, the lower court correctly determined that...the referendum petition this case is fatally flawed and therefore invalid."

Sabey also questioned Ayala's argument that she relied on city officials or staff to determine what needed to be carried while gathering signatures.

"Local election officials have no authority to save proponents from their failure to comply with the procedural requirements governing the referendum process," he said.

Sabey added that records of the

Nov. 6 council meeting reported that Ayala said "she consulted with at least three lawyers about circulating a referendum petition."

"Accordingly, Ms. Ayala, a former Pleasanton City Councilmember, cannot now claim that she was unfamiliar with applicable referendum law," Sabey said.

Sabey also argues in his brief that those appealing Judge Roesch's ruling, "in an apparent effort to prejudice this court against (the Lins) and their current project argue that (the Lins) are outsiders who 'do not live in Pleasanton' and wish to 'short circuit the democratic process and head to court.'"

"A review of the project's history demonstrates that the appellant's mischaracterization of (the Lins) is meritless," Sabey said.

With this latest brief filed, it will now be up to Attorney Ronald Katz, Ayala and the citizens' coalition's lawyer, to respond. Katz, of the Palo Alto law firm of Manatt, Phelps and Phillips, has about 30 days to file his brief.

After that, legal analysts say it could take three to nine months before the Court of Appeal schedules a hearing, although it's expected that a decision will be rendered before the end of 2009. ■



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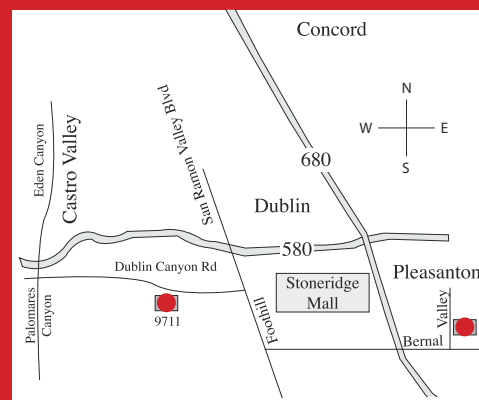
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Mayor, council sworn in

County Registrar reports 35,071 voted here Nov. 4, or 84% of those eligible

by Jeb Bing

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and City Councilmembers Cindy McGovern and Matt Sullivan were sworn in—again—Tuesday night to new terms of office following their victories in the Nov. 4 municipal election.

Alameda County Registrar Dave Macdonald certified the results of the election reporting that Hosterman received 17,192 votes against 14,717 votes received by her opponent Steve Brozosky. It was Brozosky's second try in as many years to unseat Hosterman, who now goes on to a third two-year term. Under term limits, Hosterman can serve eight years, which means that she still has another term to serve if she seeks re-election in 2010.

In the council race, McGovern led the ticket with 18,152 votes. Sullivan received 16,235, with businessman Jerry Pentin finishing third in the contest for two council seats with 11,020 votes. Former teacher and school principal Howard W. Neely received 6,063 votes despite announcing shortly after he registered that he was stepping out of the race for personal reasons.

In the registrar's canvass of all votes cast in Pleasanton, Macdonald reported that a total of 35,071 votes were cast in the Nov. 4 election here, representing 83.98 percent of the city's eligible voters.

In the two hillside protection measures on the ballot, Measure PP, sponsored by the Save Pleasanton's Hills and Housing Cap citizens' coalition, received 18,623 favorable votes against 12,667 votes opposed to it. The council-backed initiative, Measure QQ, received 17,142 favorable votes, with 14,675 votes cast against it.

The election leaves the same council intact for at least another two years, when the terms of Hosterman and councilmembers Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Jerry Thorne expire. Since Thorne and Cook-Kallio are serving their first four-year terms of office, all three will be eligible to seek re-election in 2010.

At the regular City Council meeting that followed the official seating of the newly-elected members, Cook-Kallio was appointed vice mayor of Pleasanton for a one-year term lasting through next December. She succeeds Thorne, who has served in that position this year.

In commenting on the election, Hosterman said vot-



Councilwoman Cindy McGovern, right, is sworn in to a second four-year term Tuesday night by City Clerk Karen Diaz.

ers sent a strong message to the council "affirming our work on behalf of the community."

"We have many challenges ahead, especially given the economic conditions that we face," she added. "So we are going to re-focus our direction not just on large projects but toward safeguarding our economy. We need to make sure that our downtown, Hacienda, Stoneridge and other interests are safeguarded so that they continue generating the tax dollars we need as a city."

"Collectively, we'll be rolling up our shirtsleeves and going to work," she said.

McGovern praised the volunteer spirit that gets things done in Pleasanton, whether it's working in the schools or other parts of the community.

Hosterman said the council will meet in February to review its priorities for the two-year period ahead. ■

Joanne Hall

Centerpointe hosts open house

Parents can tour new campus for January term

Centerpointe Presbyterian Church recently moved to its new home at the corner of Valley and Busch avenues, and are providing tours of the new preschool facility.

Interested parents can attend an open house from 9 to 11 a.m. Dec. 10 or 11 and see classes in session.

Veteran preschool Director Didi Huckaby developed the program, hired staff and incorporated a low student-teacher ratio that is well below the state-mandated limit. The school has a customized curriculum that includes Bible lessons.

Centerpointe is open to children

from 2 years, 9-months old (potty trained) through students ready to enter kindergarten. Registration is open for classes beginning in January, as well as summer and fall programs. Call 461-3011 or visit www.centerpointepreschool.org.

—Emily West

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A heartfelt message

Congressman stops by Walnut Grove Elementary to visit students making holiday cards for the troops

by Janet Pelletier

During lunchtime recess this week, Annika Brauer's art classroom was full of children crafting cards with homemade messages for the troops.

The cards, with a holiday theme, will be sent to military men and women across the country and even locally at Camp Parks in Dublin. It's part of an effort by Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) to send goodwill to soldiers who are recovering from battle and stationed away from their families during the holiday season. McNerney, who stopped by Walnut Grove Elementary School Tuesday to see the kids at work, will hand-deliver the cards to soldiers at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.; sailors and marines at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. and to soldiers of the National Guard and Reserve at the Parks Reserve Forces Training Area in Dublin.

McNerney said the holidays can be stressful for troops, particularly those who have just returned from battle with injuries.

"Thoughtful words of encouragement and support from the great people of the 11th District can make a huge difference in boosting the morale of our brave troops who have so honorably served our country," he said.

Making cards for the troops is just one in a number of projects Walnut Grove students can participate in during their lunchtime. Brauer hosts the recess art class four times a week for any students who would rather pick up a paint brush than a basketball.

Residents are also encouraged to make a holiday card for the troops, or purchase one and write a message of thanks to a service member and deliver them by Dec. 10 to McNerney's office, 5776 Stoneridge Mall Road, Ste. 175, Pleasanton, CA 94588. The cards should be unaddressed and envelopes unsealed. Last year, McNerney delivered more than 700 cards and he hopes to top that number this year. ■



Janet Pelletier



Above: Walnut Grove Principal Bill Radulovich looks at cards made by first and second graders. Pictured with him are Rida Lasne, Grace Meng and Alena Tipton. Left: Congressman Jerry McNerney watches student Zoe Grell make a card for the troops. He's holding a couple of the cards, which are reindeer hand puppets.

Janet Pelletier

Tri-Valley grant workshops slated for Dec. 8 and 10

Cities of Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore co-sponsoring workshops for city, housing and human service and community development block grants

The cities of Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore will co-sponsor two application workshops for all fiscal year 2009-10 Pleasanton city grants, Livermore Housing and Human Services grants, and Pleasanton and Dublin Community Development Block grants.

The first workshop is slated from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Dec. 8 at the Pleasanton City Council Chamber,

200 Old Bernal Ave. A second workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to noon Dec. 10 at the Livermore City Council Chamber, 3575 Pacific Ave.

City staff will discuss the application processes and distribute application packets at the workshops. Attendance at one of the scheduled workshops is mandatory in order to apply for city of

Livermore funding and is strongly encouraged for the cities of Dublin and Pleasanton. Both workshops will be identical in format and content and it is only necessary to attend one workshop.

To RSVP for attendance at one of the workshops, call Tim Shurtleff, 960-4016, or email him at tmshurtleff@ci.livermore.ca.us.

—Janet Pelletier

Marine back from Iraq welcomed home

Veterans, military families, well-wishers celebrate Mike Eklund's return

by Jeb Bing

More than 70 well-wishers waved American flags and "Welcome Home" banners recently to celebrate the return of Marine Corporal Mike Eklund to his Pleasanton home.

Crowds lined the parking lot of the Masonic Lodge on Hopyard Road Nov. 22 as Eklund drove in, accompanied by 25 Patriot Guard Riders on their motorcycles. The Riders met up with the returning Marine atop the Altamont Pass and provided an escort west on I-580 to the celebration site.

Eklund, joined by his mother Peggy, thanked the crowd from a small stage, where he also received congratulatory letters from Pleasanton Vice-Mayor Jerry Thorne, Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) and others.

Chris Miller, head of Pleasanton Military Families, said his group and other military support organizations in the Tri-Valley provide welcome home celebrations for all returning military, whether their tours are completed or, as in Eklund's case,



Chris Miller, right, head of Pleasanton Military Families, officially welcomes home Corporal Mike Eklund, who stands with his mother Peggy at Masonic Lodge on Hopyard Road, where more than 70 turned out for special festivities.

it's a holiday away from duty in Iraq to be with family. Eklund will return in late December.

Bryan Welden of the Lafayette Flag Brigade gave Eklund a special commemorative flag dating back to Sept. 11, 2001.

Welden said his organization is now conducting three "welcome homes" a week in the area the Flag Brigade serves, and expect the volume will increase next year as more military men and women return from Iraq. ■

Workday

(continued from page 5)

growing very rapidly and now have more than 300 employees," she added. "We have earned big name customers, including Frextronics, Salesforce.com, Chiquita Brands International and many others. And now we've outgrown our facilities in Walnut Creek and wanted to settle into a location that provides

us plenty of room to grow for the long term."

The news was especially good for City Manager Nelson Fialho, who said that he understands that 500 employees will soon call Workday home. This follows a decision by Oracle shortly after it acquired PeopleSoft to keep many of those employees on board. It since has increased its workforce and is now building a new five-story building near the Bart East station, which will mean adding more employees.

At the same time, Adept Technologies Inc. has announced that it will relocate its headquarters from Livermore into two buildings in the Hacienda Business Center. The robotics firm will move its main offices to a 34,000-square-foot site at 5960 Inglewood Drive and lease another 23,000 square feet for its manufacturing and research operations at 5627 Gibraltar Drive.

The robotics firm has about 125 employees who will make the move to Pleasanton. ■



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4H in the spirit of giving

The theme for Pleasanton's Abbie 4H Club's November meeting Nov. 12 was "Thanks and Giving," and they lived by their national motto "learn by doing."

The club's youth officers set up collection stations around the regular meeting room for dona-

tions to help people out in the Tri-Valley area. The number of donations received that evening includes 22 blankets, 61 coats and jackets for the new Food Pantry in Pleasanton at Valley Bible Church, 91 pounds of non-perishable food for the Alameda County Food Bank, 60-plus towels and some pet food for local pet rescue organization Tri-Valley Animal

Rescue and the East County Animal Shelter, and a table full of new toys for the annual 4H Kids to Kids Christmas Party for disadvantaged families.

To top it off, members donated candy and materials, and during the meeting made almost 100 treat-filled holiday poppers for the kids at Shepherd's Gate shelter over the holidays.

Martin Luther King Jr. remembered in YMCA contests

Students invited to contribute art or essay based on his message's impact today

In preparing for their annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration, the Tri-Valley YMCA is holding art and essay contests. Students in kindergarten through 12th grade can submit an essay (grades 6 to 12) or art (grades

K to 5) to show the relevance of Dr. King's life and message for today.

The entry deadline is Dec. 11 and the winners will be awarded with \$100 U.S. saving bonds and be invited to the ninth annual Dr.

Martin Luther King Jr. Fellowship Breakfast Jan. 26 at the Radisson Hotel in Dublin.

For details on contest rules and for an entry form, call 475-6107 or email tstier@ymcaeastbay.org.

—Emily West

Crime

(continued from page 5)

Meanwhile, officers pursued the Velasquez on foot, Taser and putting him under arrest. During that time, Orozco somehow was able to get her arms in front of her, got into the driver's seat of the patrol car and sped off, hightailing it on I-680 north into Pleasanton, Creel said.

Officers followed the hijacked patrol car north until Orozco swung across all lanes in an attempt to exit at Stoneridge Drive and flipped the car into a ditch just before the off-ramp. She got out of the car and started running, but a deputy was able to apprehend her after Taser her. Orozco and Velasquez were taken to ValleyCare Medical Center for evaluation, released, and taken to Santa Rita Jail.

Creel said they were booked on

auto theft charges, as the Acura was discovered to be stolen, felony pursuit and resisting arrest. Velasquez was also charged with being under the influence of a controlled substance, DUI and possession of burglary tools.

The incident, which snarled traffic in both directions of I-680, was extremely unusual, according to Creel.

"What was unique was the aggressiveness displayed by both, so we're looking into their backgrounds to see if they have any prior records," Creel said.

No other cars were involved in the incident and authorities are investigating how the woman was able to get into the front seat of the patrol car.

Not too far from that crash scene, the Taco Bell at 5524 Springdale Drive was robbed by two men at 7:50 p.m. Monday. The suspects allegedly entered the restaurant through the front doors and jumped over the counter, police said.

One of the suspects pointed a gun at an employee and demanded that he open the safe before going into a back room and taking money from another employee, according to a report by the Pleasanton Police Department.

The second suspect took the money out of the safe and the cash register drawers and then the two fled the restaurant, police said.

Both suspects are described by witnesses as men in their early 20s who are between 5 foot 5 inches tall and 5 foot 8 inches tall with medium builds.

The first suspect was wearing a white hooded sweatshirt, snowboarding-type pants and had a blue bandana over his face, according to police. The second suspect was wearing a sweatshirt and similar pants.

Anyone with information about the robberies is asked to call Pleasanton police at 931-5100.

—Janet Pelletier, Emily West and Bay City News contributed to these reports

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Holy Weekly

Anita Haraughty enjoys the views (and the Weekly) in the holy city of Jerusalem from the garden of the Hotel Notre Dame. Anita, who was on a pilgrimage to the holy land, said the trip was “beyond my expectations and I enjoyed the visits to all the biblical places.”



Banding together for the Weekly

The Amador Valley High School marching band and color guard posed with the Weekly and director Jonathan Grantham at the Western Band Association Championships in Los Angeles. Amador placed fifth in the final competition.

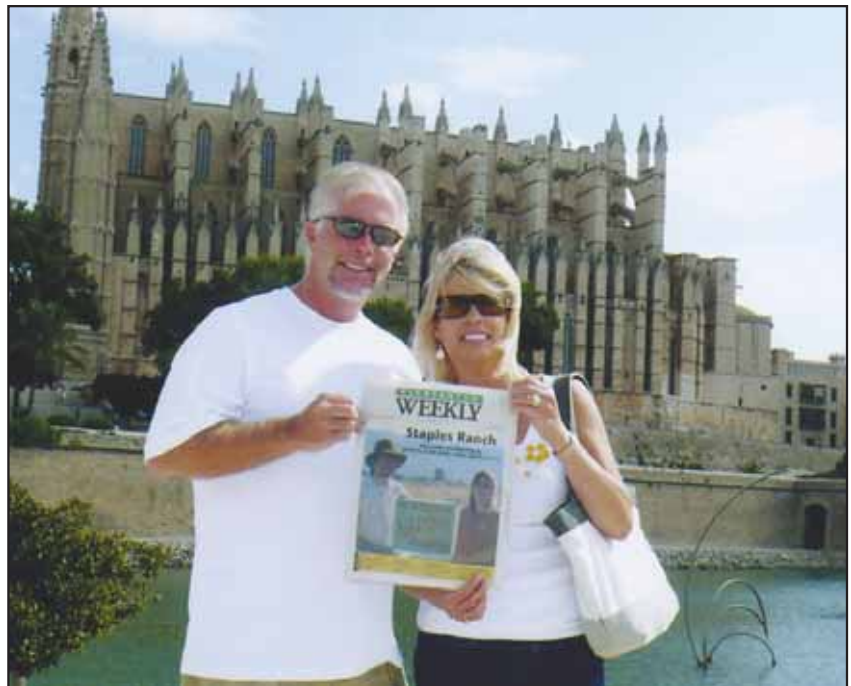


A Spanish Weekly

Troy and Cheryln Van Sloten took the Weekly along with them to Mallorca, Spain.

A Thai Weekly

Anne Kelly and Mary Kroesen pause to read the Weekly at Wat Cheng-Man, one of the 50,000 Buddhist temples in Thailand.



Florence Weekly-gale

Pleasanton resident Jerry Tusan ventured with the Weekly to beautiful Florence, Italy, where he poses along the waterfront.



A Keane sense of the Weekly

Sue and John Keane took the Weekly on their vacation that included “three fabulous weeks touring Italy.” After leaving Cinque Terre, on their way to Bagno Vignoni, they stopped in the hilltop town of Volterra to catch up on the Weekly news.

by Jerri Pantages Long

If you are among the fortunate spectators who get to see the annual Hometown Holidays parade tomorrow evening, watch for the Foothill High School Marching Band. Keeping pace with his musicians on the sidelines will be Bob Moorefield, the man who created the band 36 years ago and who has been its guiding force ever since. This may be your last chance to see him on our local parade route, since “Moorf” (as he is affectionately known by his students) plans to trade his baton for a golf club or fishing pole when he enters retirement in June.

At a very conservative estimate, Moorefield has paced along more than 367 miles of parade routes with teenage musicians from Foothill over the past four decades—enough to march from Pleasanton to Santa Barbara—but that doesn’t count all the practice marches, nor the special events when the band was invited out of state and out of the country for command performances. Moorefield, 63, has made musical history with his band, as evidenced by an estimated 3,500 glittering first-place and sweepstakes trophies that line his band room and office on campus.

Those of us privileged to have been part of the original Foothill High School faculty vividly recall that we began in 1972-73 with an unfinished campus and only freshman students. Helping to shape the spirit of the newly formed school was the band—all 17 members—and Moorefield, recruited from where he had taught at St. Mary’s High School in Stockton for five years.

“I liked the idea of starting the music program for a new high school, and I liked the enthusiasm of Neil Sweeney [Foothill’s first principal],” said Moorefield. “He was a great person to work for—a great band supporter right from the start.”

With so few young musicians to start with, Moorefield had to assign some of them different instruments in order to have an actual band. Band members had come from three feeder school districts, with varying skill levels.

“We only gave one performance that first year,” recalled Moorefield, “and that was at the dedication ceremony in the school library. I recruited like crazy, and we had 56 band members that next year, just sophomores and freshmen.”

Principal Sweeney ordered 80 blue-white-and-gold band uniforms.

“I told him we needed more than that, but he thought we would never have that big a band,” said Moorefield with a laugh. “Now we have 180 musicians, plus 20 auxiliary unit members.”

In fact, from that one very small band class, Foothill’s music program has grown to include not only marching band, but also symphonic and concert bands, wind ensemble, two jazz bands, percussion, color guard, and choir classes, with about 400 students enrolled out of the current student body of 2,330. The school now has an assistant band director, plus other band staff members funded by the Foothill Band Boosters. Moorefield is justifiably proud of the band’s retention record: Students who join up as freshmen are still marching as seniors, including 60 members of the Class of 2009.

From the very beginning, parents as band boosters have been an essential ingredient in the band’s success, not only raising funds, but also serving as truck loaders and drivers, helpers and chaperones for the many band excursions. Moorefield inspires loyalty not only in his students, but also in their parents. Many stayed on to help years after their students had graduated, such as Arnold and Josephine Habestad. She began sewing flags and color guard uniforms, and he was loading equipment the second year of Foothill’s existence. They continued until Josephine’s death in 2005. Josephine would bring along her sewing machine on band review trips, just to make repairs as needed. Arnold carried on as part of the truck crew.

In 1973-74, Foothill’s marching band attended its first band review, in Cupertino, for which they got a “participation award” for showing up. At their second band review, in Merced, they took first place—a standard they have maintained over the years. When Foothill was three years old and had juniors, Moorefield took them



Above: Bob Moorefield, known to most as “Moorf,” teaches on a recent weekday in the high school band room. Surrounding him and his students are hundreds of trophies from the marching band, color guard, two jazz bands, winter percussion and guard, wind ensemble, symphonic band and concert band. **Below:** The band performs at the Portland Rose Festival.

MAN OF THE

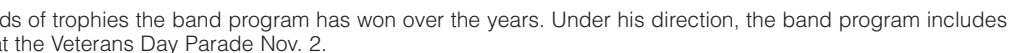
Foothill’s ‘Music Man’ Bob Moorefield m

to the Portland Rose Festival to compete in their first field show event. At that point, the band had never even done a field show at a football game. Moorefield offered to buy every band member a steak dinner if they won sweepstakes, never dreaming that he would have to pay up—but he did! “It was worth it,” he said.

Then, with all of three years of the band’s existence, Moorefield decided to launch a local band review. Held the fourth Saturday of October, the now-famous Foothill Band Review attracts dozens of outstanding bands from throughout California and (sometimes) beyond. Drawing upon past and present band parents and students, the band review involves an estimated 500 hours of volunteer time to organize. The day begins very early, as busloads of teen musicians pull into the Amador Valley High School parking lot. The concert band performances begin in the morning, followed by the marching band competition that parades down Main Street over several hours. Finishing off the evening at Foothill High School’s athletic stadium is the halftime show competition.

Moorefield is no stranger to long hours, though. Typically he arrives at the Foothill cam-





THE YEAR

Marches toward retirement

pus by 6 a.m., and frequently he does not call it a day until 10 p.m. The marching band practices from 7-8 a.m. every weekday, then returns for a three-hour evening practice on Tuesday nights during fall semester. Wednesday nights are color guard's practice time (including those carrying flags or the shields that spell out the school's name); Thursdays are the percussion unit's time slot; Fridays are halftime performances at the football games, and most Saturdays involve traveling to band reviews.

Anyone who observes him in action has to conclude that Moorefield is able to do what he does because he loves it. Born John Robert Moorefield III in Meriden, Conn. on Sept. 23, 1945, Moorefield was already playing trumpet by fourth grade. By then, his family had moved to California. Moorefield attended Arroyo Grande High School, near Pismo Beach, and it was there that he decided upon his future career.

"My high school band director was Richard Dorr—an incredible musician, and an incredible teacher," said Moorefield. "Basically, he's the reason I became a teacher."

Like Dorr, Moorefield has had the great pleasure of seeing former students go on to succeed

in the field of music. Two former students are themselves band directors: Ed Cloyd at Monte Vista High School and Josh Butterfield at Lodi High School. Former drum major Elisse LaBarre, currently a student at University of Santa Clara, is now judging band events.

Another Foothill graduate planning to march along in Moorefield's footsteps is John Holmgren, tenor sax player from the Class of 2008.

"My son went off to UC Davis as an engineering major," said Ellen Holmgren. "Two weeks later, he called and said, 'Mom, I've changed my major.' His heart was always in music, and Mr. Moorefield is definitely John's inspiration for becoming a music teacher. John really looks up to Bob and keeps in touch with him."

In fact, John will march with the Foothill band when they return to the Fiesta Bowl in Arizona this spring.

Band students learn much more than proficiency with an instrument, according to Moorefield.

“Being in a high school band is being part of an extended band family. The kids learn self-discipline and time management,” said Moorefield. “They form lifelong friendships. Some of them even get married.”

And by now, the second generation—children of former band members—have been Moorefield’s students, “at least 10 of them,” he estimated.

Two of these are the daughters of Melantha Snider Rice. She was a baritone saxophone player in the Class of 1978—the second class to graduate from Foothill. Her daughters Meleah Jones (1997) and Alyssia Jones (1999) also enjoyed being in the band.

"The experience of being in the Foothill band cannot be replaced," said Rice. "It was awesome! We were awesome! The best experience ever. And Moorf is like family to me. He helped me through hard times. Now he is part of all our family celebrations."

Rice was the head chaperone for band trips for six years. By the time her daughters were high school musicians, the band had grown.

"You join the band and you instantly have 200 friends," Rice said. "You get to travel and share a lot—and that's just not true for other [non-band] freshmen."

School year after school year, the Foothill Marching Band has continued to add up awards, as have the other music groups. Asked to pick some of his proudest accomplishments, Moorefield mentions winning the Grand Championship trophy at the National Parade Championship held at the Fiesta Bowl in Phoenix in 2006. And then there was the thrill of playing for Super Bowl XIX at Stanford University. Foothill's jazz ensemble was a finalist in the Monterey Jazz Festival, and took first place in the Reno Jazz Fest. Or how about the fact that Foothill is the only Northern California high school to have been invited to the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade on five different New Year's Days?

But then, even bigger than that, was the invitation to make history by playing continuously aboard a train crossing beneath the English Channel in the newly opened Chunnel in 1995.

“We flew the band to London, then took the ferry across to spend New Year’s Eve in Paris,” Moorefield recalled. “On New Year’s Day, we were at the Gare du Nord train station, playing as we boarded. The security guards wanted to stop us and check in each student, but then the tour guides presented them with cases of champagne” and the band played on. The musicians filled two adjacent cars on the Euro Star Express train, with the connecting doors propped open. It took five hours and 21 minutes to make the trip, including the 31-mile Chunnel crossing that day (a trip that now takes two hours, 15 minutes from Paris to London), and the band played non-stop, including when they marched off the train at Waterloo Station in London, England.

"They marched three blocks to take their place at the head of the New Year's Day Parade, which had waited for our arrival to begin, then the kids played for the entire 2-mile parade route," said Moorefield, remembering the day his band made it into the Guinness Book of World Records. "By the last mile, it was freezing cold and snowing. My wife was so excited, she walked with me without even having a coat on. The kids were exhausted, but at the end of the parade route, they wanted to do it all over again."

Moorefield admits it will be hard to walk away from it all.

"It's time to be able to spend more time with Anne," he said, referring to his wife, who has diligently served as the band's librarian, historian and hostess. Moorefield plans to "go fishing at least once a month, play golf, give clinics and maybe private music lessons, do band judging, and definitely do more traveling."

Their sons, Bob and Alan Sawyer, live in Malaysia and Arizona, respectively. Their seven grandchildren range in age from 2 to 17, and Bob and Anne Moorefield plan to spend more time with them here and in Hawaii.

"I've really enjoyed all the students I've had," said Moorefield. "The kids were in the program because they wanted to be, not because they had to. I've enjoyed being in an activity that promoted good. The band experience at Foothill High School is something I'll never regret."

"If I had it to do over again, I'd do the same thing." ■

About Bob Moorefield

- Born Sept. 23, 1945 in Connecticut
- Began playing trumpet in fourth grade
- Credits Richard Dorr, his high school band director, with inspiring his career
- BA and MA from University of Pacific
- Founded Foothill Marching Band when the school opened in 1972-73
- Program has grown from 17 to 400 students in the music department
- Marching band has won over 3,500 awards
- Currently president of the Northern California Band Association
- Written up in national band magazines (Fanfare! and School Band & Orchestra)
- Honored in November by Amador Valley High School Friends of Music

Foothill Marching Band Honors

(partial list):

- Parade Champions at 2008 Queen Victoria Days Parade in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada
- Grand Champions at the 2006 National Parade Championship, Fiesta Bowl, Phoenix (one of three appearances there)
- 5 appearances in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade
- 12 appearances at the Portland (Oregon) Rose Festival, including 5 sweepstakes awards)
- 6 appearances in the Hawaii Invitational Music Festival in Honolulu, including 6 sweepstakes awards
- 6 performances for the Christmas Parade in Hollywood, Calif.
- 15 performances for the San Francisco 49ers
- 5 performances for the Oakland Raiders
- Opening Ceremonies for World Cup Soccer at Stanford Stadium, Palo Alto, Calif.
- Super Bowl XIX at Stanford University
- Opening Ceremonies for 2004 World Cyber Games in San Francisco
- Over 30 performances for Disneyland, Magic Mountain and Disneyworld
- Set world's record by performing from Paris, France, to London, England for 5 hours, 21 minutes, aboard the Euro Star Express on the first day of the Chunnel crossing
- Every other summer, the band has traveled to Europe, where they performed in England, France, Switzerland, Austria, and Germany as part of the Ambassadors of Music program

Opinion

Editorial

Oak Grove: A primer

It's now been 17 years since 600 acres in Pleasanton's southeast hills, now known as the Oak Grove development site, was annexed into Pleasanton. This acreage is part of a much larger property purchased by Jennifer Lin, her brother Frederic and other members of the Lin family in 1977. At the time, the site, which included what is now the Kottinger Ranch development, held two stock ponds to provide water for livestock. Pleasanton's Kottinger water tank is located on the southwest quadrant and is accessed from Benedict Court at the top end of Kottinger Ranch, which includes a padlocked gate that can be opened by city fire, police and maintenance personnel.

On Oct. 16, 1984, the council approved a Planned Unit Development (PUD) for Kottinger Ranch, a 156-custom-home project on the hills east of Bernal Avenue, which at that time had not been extended. To achieve the open space preservation required in the development agreement, Kottinger Ranch streets and homes were located on the flat and ridge portions of the site. The new community was planned as the first phase of the Lins' planned development of the hills leading to the upper reaches of their property, and the Lins' acreage was rezoned to accommodate this future development.

That "next phase" was Kottinger Hills, an 86-home development of more conventional homes similar to those being constructed in nearby Vintage Heights, along with an 18-hole golf course and approximately 237 acres of dedicated open space. The City Council gave its approval to this project on Oct. 20, 1992. Those who now owned homes in Kottinger Ranch were incensed and gathered enough signatures to place a referendum on the ballot to overturn the council's action. That referendum was approved on Nov. 2, 1993.

Four years ago, the Lins submitted a new development plan calling for 98 custom homes with a 5-acre neighborhood park and a new water tank, but no golf course. The remaining open space, about 200 acres, would be given to the city free of charge for public access to trails, equestrian paths and open space in perpetuity. With city officials and some in Kottinger Ranch, Vintage Hills and Grey Eagle Estates still concerned about more homes in their neighborhoods and traffic on their streets, the Lins, their development and legal representatives and community leaders started a series of meetings to determine what kind of development, if any, would be acceptable to all. Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and Councilman Matt Sullivan, already partners in an effort to acquire an open space boundary around the south and east urban limits of Pleasanton, joined in.

Over the course of the last three years, these groups have met in homes, with the leaders of the Kottinger Ranch Homeowners Association, in public workshops and even in closed-door, unannounced meetings (which we criticized) in the city's Operations Center. In the end, the Lins agreed to reduce the number of homesites planned to 51, down from 98, and to increase their gift of open space to the city to 496 acres. Accompanying this agreement was a pledge of \$1 million to mitigate traffic, street widening projects, and even more school crossing guards. It seemed like a fair plan for all.

A citizens' group, headed by former City Councilwoman Kay Ayala, disagreed. The result is that we now have litigation stemming from the council's approval of the 51-home/496 acres of open space plan that the council approved Nov. 6, 2007. The most recent is a brief filed last week before the state Court of Appeal. If the court rejects the appeal by Ayala and her group, the Lins likely can proceed to finish a plan they first conceived at least two decades ago. If Ayala and her group eventually win their argument and successfully persuade voters to overturn the council's approval, the Lins will have to wait a bit longer to develop the Pleasanton acreage they still own.

Code of ethics

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

Letters

Let's hear solutions, not complaints

Dear Editor,

Not sure who Kathleen Clark-Morrison is and I'm also not sure what her point is regarding downtown ("What do we want downtown to be now?" Letters, Nov. 14, page 10).

She seems to have done some research regarding space used and space available and why this problem exists by her thinking. But has she done any research on how to solve that problem? Be a part of the solution not just a mudslinger. If you care enough to write about this in lengthy fashion, let's hear your solutions.

Jay Clifton

It's a me, me, me generation

Dear Editor,

With all the talk about recycling, going green, conserving energy in Pleasanton, we're only talking the talk, not walking the walk.

I had the rare opportunity, or need rather, to take my children to school today. They normally walk or ride a bus. It was amazing. With all the complaining about cars, with all the complaining about this obese generation, there sure seemed to be a lot of cars on the road taking children to school. Specifically I went by Foothill and Hart this morning.

It seems like saving gas and conserving energy is alright if it doesn't mean my child has to ride the bus, as long as my child isn't inconvenienced by riding the bus.

It's all about me, me, me isn't it? Me, I'm going back to incandescent light bulbs until the car dealers shut off their 30 kilowatts of lighting at each parking lot each night.

Richard Schwaninger

Economic vitality committee an important link

Dear Editor,

I wanted to thank you for acknowledging the work of the city's Economic Vitality Committee in your recent article, ("Not all economic news is bad news," Editorial, Nov. 28, page 12).

The EVC serves as an important link between our elected officials and our business community for the discussion of economic trends and issues. The people who serve on the committee volunteer their time to promote a healthy environment for business to flourish, for they know that successful local companies benefit everyone in Pleasanton.

Pamela Ott

*economic development director,
city of Pleasanton*

ACE is proud to serve Pleasanton

Dear Editor,

Thank you for placing the Altamont Commuter Express on the cover of your recent resource guide, "InfoPleasanton." It is an excellent photograph.

Pleasanton is an historic railroad city, and the midway point on our route between the San Joaquin Valley and the Silicon Valley. More importantly, it is a major destination or origin for a large number of our riders, and a transfer location to local Pleasanton employers and the Bay Area. We are thrilled to serve Pleasanton and be your neighbor.

Hubert Hanrahan

*manager, marketing and customer
service, San Joaquin Regional
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Transitions

Obituaries

Salvador Gomez

Longtime Pleasanton resident Salvador Gomez died peacefully surrounded by family and friends Nov. 20 at ValleyCare Medical Center at the age of 84.

He was born in Tecolotlan, Jalisco, Mexico on June 12, 1924. He was baptized by Father Jose Maria Robles who was at a later time martyred and was canonized and declared a Saint by Pope John Paul II at the Vatican on May 21, 2000. He had humble beginnings being one of 14 children. He started working at the tender age of 5, helping his father plow the fields and riding a burro many miles away to bring back firewood for his family.

During World War II, he heard the U.S. needed men to work since most of the men were at war. He immigrated to the U.S. at the age of 17. Becoming a U.S. citizen later in 1953 would be one of the proudest achievements. He learned the trade and came to be a master carpenter. He worked many years for Morrison Homes and proudly told everyone he helped build this town (Pleasanton). He put 56 years in the Carpenters Local Union and was a member in good standing of Local No. 713.

Family was very important to him. He adored his parents and siblings. He was able to sponsor all his living brothers and sisters to come to the U.S. and taught his brothers his trade. After a long, hard day at work, he could be found wearing his cowboy hat and boots smoking a cigar, riding his longtime companion "Whiskey," a chestnut thoroughbred horse, behind the Alameda County Fairgrounds and through nearby creeks. He even assisted the local police department in catching runaway cattle every now and then with his horse and lasso.

After retiring from carpentry in 1983, he took up landscaping and loved fussing with people's yards.

He also enjoyed spending time with his animals on his little ranchette in Sunol. He made many friends along the way calling all the younger ones his Mijo's and Mija's (sons and daughters). He was a witty, charming and endearing man, a man of honor and class, yet very humble. He was cheerful of heart and always had a ready smile, even during his most trying last days. He will be missed by all. He leaves behind his beloved wife, Maria Sergia Gomez; children, Adrianna Willamar, Yolanda Covarrubias (Daniel), Irma Colon (Ezra), Salvador L. Gomez (Pam); sisters, Felipa Ascencio (Jesus), Rosa Briseno, Leandro Jimenez; brothers, Roberto Gomez (Ana), Javier Gomez (Olivia); grandchildren, Simona Gomez, Daniel Covarrubias, Jr., Alessa and Amee Covarrubias, Isabella and Joshua Colon; great-grandchildren, Ethan and Josiah Covarrubias; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

A service was held Nov. 28 at St. Augustine Catholic Church.

Lily M. Soares

Lily M. Soares, a resident of Dublin, died Nov. 21 with her niece and nephew at her side.

She was born and raised in Oakland, living there until 2000, when she made her home in Dublin.

Mrs. Soares was a proud graduate of St. Patrick's Elementary School and Holy Names High School, class of 1951 in Oakland. She worked at Bank of America, Oakland Marin for over 35 years. She was a member of the Native Daughters of the Golden West Hayward Parlor No. 122, formally of Piedmont Parlor No. 87. She was also a member of the Catholic Community of Pleasanton as well as the Catholic Professional Women's Club of San Francisco.

She leaves behind her son, Edward Soares, his wife, Joyce; and her granddaughters, Kethry and Erin Soares of Lompoc, Calif. Her love and presence will be greatly missed by her niece, Lucinda Marques Brainerd, her husband, Tim; and the loves of

her life, their children, Mickey and Casey Brainerd of Dublin. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bob Soares; her sister, Henrietta V. Marques; and her loving parents, Edward and Lucy Vasquez.

A funeral Mass was held Nov. 26 at St. Elizabeth Seton Church. She will be laid to rest in the family plots at St. Mary's Cemetery in Oakland. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Sisters of the Holy Names, P.O. Box 1907, Los Gatos, CA 95031.

Deaths, Weddings and Births

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

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Births

The following information on Pleasanton births was provided by ValleyCare Medical Center.

Oct. 30

Jeannie and Gregg Jeffries, a boy

Nov. 2

Karly and Justin Grilli, a boy

Nov. 6

Jennifer and Michael McCarthy, a girl

Nov. 13

Humera and Sheeraz Shahid, a girl

Nov. 14

Erika and David Vieler, a boy

Nov. 20

Larissa Leon and Christopher Key, a boy



Cade Alan Vieler

Cade Alan Vieler was born at 6:52 p.m. Nov. 14 at ValleyCare Medical Center, weighing in at 7 pounds, 14 ounces. He is welcomed by parents, David and Erika Vieler and big brothers and sister, Jordan, Cole and Emily.

Need intensifies in difficult economic climate

Valley Humane Society committed to helping humans as well as animals

by Emily West

Pets in the Tri-Valley aren't immune to the financial difficulties facing families. As companies announce work force cuts, people are realizing they are no longer able to care for their animals.

David Stegman is executive director at the Valley Humane Society, one of seven beneficiaries of the Pleasanton Weekly's annual Holiday Fund. He said these days they receive about a dozen calls a week where even a typical middle class family in a city the census has deemed the wealthiest midsize U.S. city can no longer afford their pet.

"It's just a reflection of what's happening in society," he said. "People are selling their homes and moving to apartments, many of which don't accept pets. These are people who would never give up their animals under normal circumstances."

Stegman said some of these callers are people without children who consider their animals their children.

"They're giving up something precious," he said. "Giving up these pets, especially for the elderly, is a huge factor."

In a modular facility on Nevada Street while they wait for their permanent home to be built, VHS is at capacity with 70 cats and

a waiting list of 40 to 50. Dogs are placed in foster homes throughout the city.

This increased demand on an already tight budget has been difficult for the animal welfare organization, which advocates for responsible pet ownership and eliminating unnecessary euthanasia.

"The Holiday Fund is a tremendous financial boost for us," Stegman said. "It would mean \$21,000 if the goal is reached. It's very timely and very important."

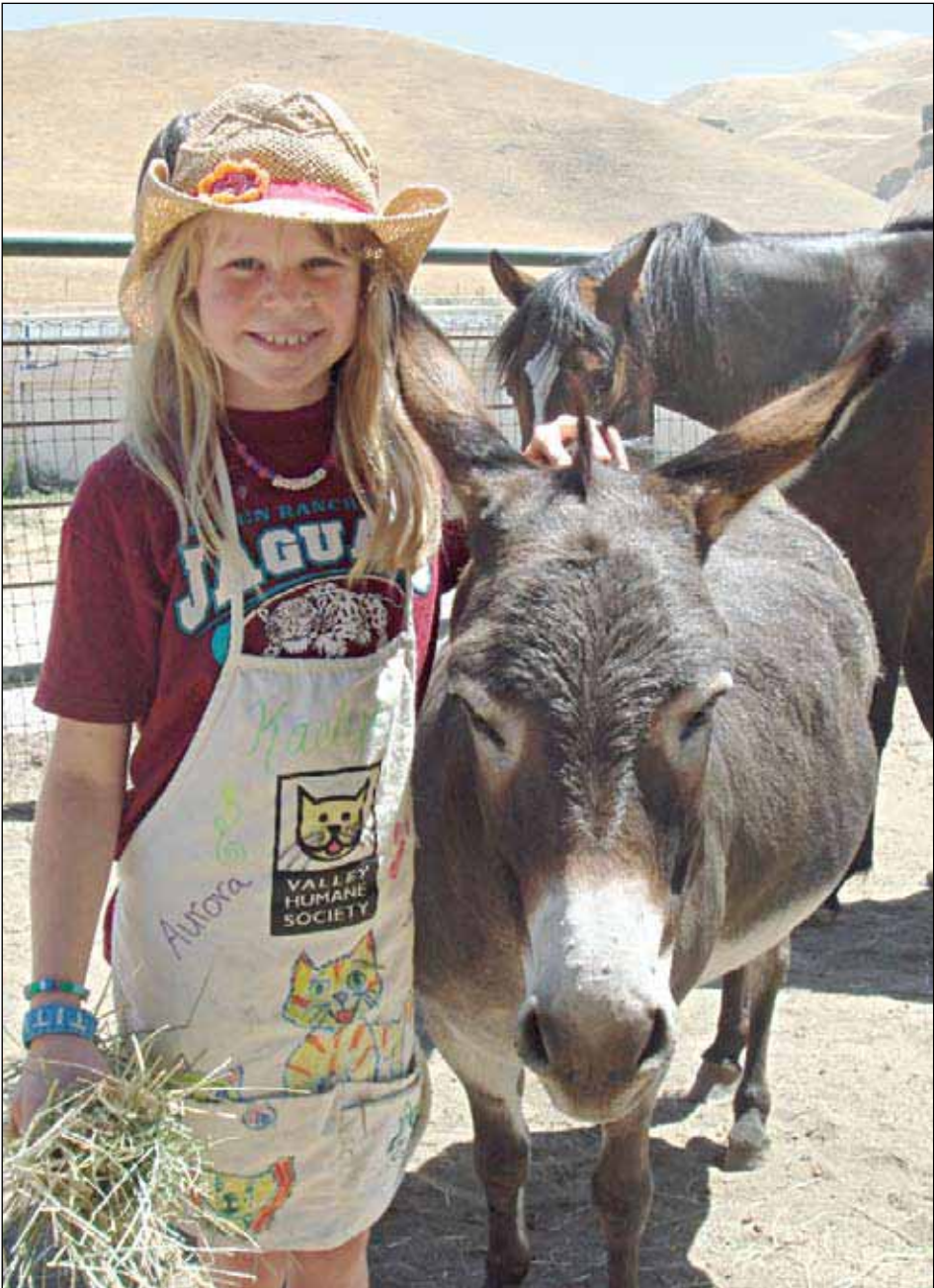
"We're not only saving those animals," he added, "but we help people. It goes hand in hand."

The organization puts on programs and services to be proactive about animal welfare. Keeler's Kids is a year-old program where volunteers go to second grade classrooms in Pleasanton to teach responsible pet ownership.

Wendy McNelley, program director at VHS, said it's basically a mock adoption of a stuffed animal.

"We take the kids to a virtual pet store and veterinarian, and they learn about the costs," she said. "They fill out an adoption application and contract, similar to the real ones we use."

The excited bunch must then decide who will feed and clean up after the pets, or even



Valley Humane Society puts on Critter Camp in August, where kids ages 9 to 12 can learn compassion toward animals and conscientious pet guardianship.

Holiday Fund donors

Since the launch of the 2008 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund, 186 donors have contributed \$28,147 to the fund, bringing the total to \$56,294 with the match. Thirty-one anonymous donors have given \$4,480 of that total.

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The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund

The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund was created to provide financial support from our readers for a select group of local nonprofit organizations to help alleviate the needs that exist, despite our community's prosperity. This marks the sixth year of the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund. It provides an opportunity to aid local groups at a time when the numbers of those without jobs or with low-paying jobs and few if any health benefits have increased.

The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund drive could not exist without the help of the Tri-Valley Community Foundation and its generous donors. This will enable us to double your donation and allow your gift of \$1 to total \$2 to the nonprofits. An added benefit: Neither the Pleasanton Weekly nor the Tri-Valley Community Foundation will take any fees or expenses for administering the fund. One hundred percent of donations go to the intended grantees.

We appreciate your support of the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund and these worthy nonprofits.

choose not to adopt a pet. In its second year, Keeler's Kids reaches 1,200 students at the cost of \$4 per "adopter."

"They learn it's not just cute, cuddly animals, but that there is a lot of work involved," McNelley said.

"Instead of just reacting [to animal rescue]," she continued, "we try to prevent them from coming here in the first place through education."

AniMeals is another program VHS does, which provides regular free meals for the dogs and cats of seniors and low-income families. The Just Like New Fund also helps these groups, as well as sick or injured rescued animals, with one-time emergency veterinary care costs, to avoid euthanization.

Other programs include Paws to Read, where therapy dogs provide incentive for children to improve reading skills at the Pleasanton Public Library; and a partnership with Hope Hospice where animals provide help for pet placement and other issues for end-of-life patients.

"The big push we've made over the last two years is to transform from animal rescue to emphasize the animal-human bond," VHS board member Phil Vermont said.

"It's harder to raise money for animal groups," Vermont added. "I love the cause and the fact that we're doing animal-human oversight."

In addition to the Holiday Fund, VHS is holding a Holiday Home Tour fundraiser from 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday. Teaming up with



Volunteer Britney Cooper holds a cat that is available for adoption. Valley Humane Society is always looking for volunteers and holds monthly orientations for anyone who is interested.

downtown shops and homeowners, the event will kick off the holidays with decorated homes, complete with vendors, drinks and treats. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased at www.valleyhumane.org, at VHS, located at 3670 Nevada St., or at the following downtown locations: The Wine Steward, Murphy's Paw, Towne Center Books, Three Dog Bakery and A Touch of Health Day Spa. ■

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How to give

Your gift helps seniors, children and others in need

Contributions to the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund will be increased by the Tri-Valley Community Foundation. For every \$1 contributed, \$2 will be donated to these local organizations. All contributions will go directly to programs that benefit Pleasanton and Tri-Valley residents. Contributions will be distributed by the Tri-Valley Community Foundation to the seven agencies listed below. No administrative costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

This year, due to the tremendous need of all nonprofits, donations will be shared equally among the seven recipient agencies.

For more information call us at 600-0840 or e-mail editor@pleasantonweekly.com.

The following agencies will be supported by the Holiday Fund:

- **Axis Community Health:** Provides medical, mental health, addiction counseling and health education services to more than 20,000 patients and clients each year, regardless of their ability to pay. An estimated 70 percent have no medical insurance or are underinsured, including some that have recently lost their jobs and health benefits. Call 201-6017 or visit www.axishealth.org.
- **Emergency Room Expansion at ValleyCare Medical Center:** ValleyCare, a nonprofit health system, needs funds to expand its emergency room, built in 1991 to accommodate 13,000 patients a year and now handles more than 26,000. It will cost \$6.7 million to replace the facility and upgrade equipment, and the Holiday Fund will help get that started. For more information, contact Ken Mercer at 925-373-4566.
- **Hope Hospice:** Hospice care is unique because it works to not only meet the needs of those at the end of life but also supports the emotional and spiritual needs of the family as well. Hope hospice care is provided regardless of the ability to pay and relies on contributions such as those raised by the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund.
- **Open Heart Kitchen:** As the only nonprofit free soup kitchen in the Tri-Valley area, this service provides nutritious meals for low-income people in the Pleasanton-Livermore area at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasanton and Asbury United Methodist Church in Livermore. Visit www.openheartkitchen.org or call 580-1616.
- **Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley:** An independent, nonprofit organization, this group offers a variety of services at no cost to seniors or to their families. Programs include health maintenance, nutrition, fitness, disease prevention, partner-in-safety, in-home counseling, friendly visiting programs and nurses on staff who regularly visit clients.
- **Tri-Valley Haven:** Runs a domestic violence shelter as well as a homeless shelter for families and a rape crisis center. Its mission is to aid those who have experienced abuse and offers counseling, a legal clinic and other practical advice. Call 449-5845; 24-hour hotline: (800) 884-8119 or visit www.trivalleyhaven.org.
- **Valley Humane Society:** This nonprofit group is all volunteers, with the mission to educate on responsible pet ownership. It assists in rescuing and placing abandoned or injured animals and operates an adoption center in downtown Pleasanton. It does not euthanize unless health problems dictate. Call 426-8656.

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The Tri-Valley Community Foundation is located at 5674 Stoneridge Dr., Ste. 112, Pleasanton, CA 94588. More information about the Foundation can be obtained by contacting the organization at the above address, by calling its President David Rice at (925) 734-9965 or through its website: www.tvcfoundation.org. The Pleasanton Weekly will make every effort to publish donor names for donations received before Dec. 31, 2008, unless the donor checks the anonymous box. All donations will be acknowledged by mail.

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

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

- PCUP-235, Linda Fong, Plato's Closet**
Application for a conditional use permit to operate a second-hand store at 4555 Hopyard Road, Suite C-26.
- PUD-85-09, Sunrise Senior Living**
Review of the determination made by the Director of Community Development on substantial conformance of the Sunrise Senior Living facility with the approved PUD-85-09 located at 5700 Pleasant Hill Rd.
- 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. Zoning for the property is PUD-I/C-O (Planned Unit Development-Industrial/Commercial) District.
- PUD-77, Dutra Trust**
Application for a Planned Unit Development (PUD) development plan approval to subdivide a ten-acre site located at 1053 Happy Valley Road into five single-family residential lots and one open space parcel. Zoning for the property is PUD-SRDR/OS (Planned Unit Development – Semi- Rural Density Residential/Open Space) District.
- PUD-75/PSPA-3, Robert Wentworth**
Work Session to consider an amendment to the Happy Valley Specific Plan to rezone an approximately 6.13-acre parcel from the PUD-SRDR (Planned Unit Development – Semi-Rural Density Residential) District to the PUD-LDR (Planned Unit Development – Low Density Residential) District and for a development plan for six single-family residential parcels at 1157 Happy Valley Road.

Youth Commission

Wednesday, December 10, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

- Discussion Regarding Youth in Government Day
- Discussion of Valley Teen Job Fair
- Distribution and Discussion Regarding the Book “Good to Great” by Jim Collins

Trails Ad Hoc Committee (Special Meeting)

Monday, December 8, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Conference Room, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Appointment of Trails Ad Hoc Representative to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Parks & Recreation Commission

- The December 11, 2008 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission has been cancelled. The next regularly scheduled Commission meeting will be held on January 8, 2009

Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee (YMPIC)

Monday, December 8, 2008 @ 6:00 p.m.
Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

- Facilitated discussion on the Pubic Outreach Process to Update the Youth Master Plan

Library Commission

Thursday, December 11, 2008
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Strategic Goals Discussion
- Election of a Chair and Vice-Chair for 2009

GENERAL INFORMATION

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

Community Pulse

Police Bulletin

Thanksgiving DUI arrests slightly down

The number of DUI arrests in the Bay Area during the California Highway Patrol’s maximum enforcement period during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend was down slightly from last year.

Between 6 p.m. Nov. 26 and 6 a.m. Sunday, CHP officers arrested 202 motorists for driving under the influence in the Bay Area, while 207 were arrested during that time period last year.

Statewide DUI arrests were also down. The CHP reported arresting 1,397 compared with 1,497 last year.

There were two fatal collisions as of Sunday morning, the same amount that occurred during that time period last year.

—*Bay City News*

Police Report

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

Nov. 22

- Burglary:
 - 8:39 a.m. in the 4500 block of Chabot Drive
- Vandalism:
 - 7:03 p.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive
- DUI:
 - 12:32 a.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and West Las Positas Boulevard

Nov. 23

- Identity theft:
 - 2:33 p.m. in the 5000 block of Hillcrest Way
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 10:33 a.m. in the 2600 block of Calle Allegre
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 12:12 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
 - 9:14 a.m. in the 4500 block of Bernal Avenue; marijuana possession
 - 8:55 p.m. in the 5800 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; DUI

- 9:40 p.m. at the intersection of Main Street and Rose Avenue; public drunkenness
- Lock picking:
 - 5:39 a.m. at the intersection of Laurel Creek and Blessing drives

Nov. 24

- Grand theft:
 - 11:44 a.m. in the 400 block of Old Bernal Avenue
 - 5:53 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
 - 5:54 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Burglary:
 - 8:11 a.m. at the intersection of West Las Positas Boulevard and Lakewood Street
 - 8:46 a.m. in the 3700 block of Brockton Drive; vehicular
- Vandalism:
 - 5:00 a.m. in the 5700 block of West Las Positas Boulevard
 - 9:31 a.m. at the intersection of Dorman Road and Denker Drive
- Recovered vehicle:
 - 2:00 a.m. in the 7600 block of Canyon Meadows Circle
- Lost property:
 - 5:23 p.m. in the 4600 block of Laramie Gate Court

Nov. 25

- Theft:
 - 4:43 p.m. in the 4300 block of West Ruby Hill Drive; identity theft
 - 9:32 p.m. in the 4500 block of Hopyard Road; grand theft
- Lock picking:
 - 8:41 a.m. at the intersection of Crestline Road and Valley Avenue

Nov. 26

- Identity theft:
 - 5:35 p.m. in the 3700 block of Kamp Drive
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 1:11 a.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive
 - 7:32 a.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road
- Vandalism:
 - 10:33 p.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive
- Underage DUI:
 - 12:14 a.m. in the 4100 block of Mohr Avenue
- Lost property:
 - 1:00 p.m. in the 4300 block of Second Street

Nov. 27

- Alcohol violations:
 - 12:36 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and West Las Positas Boulevard; DUI
 - 12:46 a.m. in the 4100 block of Moller Drive; public drunkenness
 - 2:36 a.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
 - 4:29 a.m. in the 500 block of Main Street; public drunkenness

Nov. 28

- Theft:
 - 11:59 a.m. in the 200 block of Roberts Avenue; identity theft
 - 1:49 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
 - 2:59 p.m. in the 3700 block of Kamp Drive; identity theft
 - 5:06 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- Shoplifting:
 - 2:47 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 1:10 a.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; public drunkenness, under the influence of a controlled substance
 - 8:44 a.m. in the 4400 block of Hacienda Drive; marijuana possession while driving
- Lock picking:
 - 2:47 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

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Calendar

Author Visits

Juliette Goodrich Juliette Goodrich, author of "The Little Light Shines Bright," will be signing the book from 2-4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 13, at Barnes & Noble, Hacienda Crossings, 4972 Dublin Blvd., Dublin. The book is about Livermore's Centennial Light Bulb, which has been burning for 107 years at Fire Station No. 6 on East Avenue. Proceeds benefit the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation. Visit www.author-house.com for more information.

Stacy Malkan Stacy Malkan, author of "Not Just a Pretty Face: The Ugly Side of the Beauty Industry," will speak at 2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 7, at the Livermore Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave. This event is free. Call 373-5500, ext. 5577 or visit www.livermore.lib.ca.us.

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.

Classes

American Red Cross Lifeguard Training Class City of Pleasanton will offer an American Red Cross Lifeguard Training Class from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, Dec.

22-Jan. 2, at the Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center, 4455 Black Ave. Cost is \$165 for residents; \$190 for non-residents. To register, visit the Aquatic Center office, 4455 Black Ave.; the Parks and Community Services Department office, 200 Old Bernal Ave.; mail a check to City of Pleasanton, Attn: Aquatics, P.O. Box 520; call 931-3420 or visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/recreation.

Pet First Aid and CPR Murphy's Paw will host a Pet First Aid and CPR class from 9 a.m.-noon, Sunday, Dec. 14, at the store, 410 Main St. Cost is \$35. Learn pet rescue in a low stress hands-on environment. Call 803-1600.

Yoga For The Holidays Beth Fox instructs this yoga class during the stressful holiday times that meets from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Mondays until Dec. 15, 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

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

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.

Dublin Job's Daughters Job's Daughters International is an organization for young ladies (minimum age 10 for full membership) who enjoy dances, sleepovers, parties, social events, snow trips and more. The girls develop confidence, good character, life-long friendships, moral and spiritual values, and leadership abilities. The group meets at 7 p.m., on the second Wednesday of every month, at John Knox Church, 7421 Amarillo Rd., Dublin. Call (510) 352-4292.

Livermore Lioness Club The Livermore Lioness Club welcomes new members at their regular monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. the first Tuesday monthly. The Lioness Club is a service club, sponsored by the Livermore Lions Club, that helps many worthy causes in our community. Lioness main focus areas are women, children and family issues, in addition to helping the blind.

Call 443-4543 for more information.

Monthly Meeting of the LAVGC Eric Nicholas, program naturalist at the new Alviso Adobe Community Park, will speak at the monthly Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club's monthly meeting from 7-9 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 11, at Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club, 1454 Santa Rita Rd. Call 417-8809.

NARFE The Livermore Chapter 0397 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association meets at 11:30 a.m. for lunch; 12:30 p.m. for its meeting, the second Thursday monthly, at Emil Villa's Restaurant at the corner of Pacific and S. Livermore avenues in Livermore. Call 484-0813 or 846-7167.

Pleasanton Mothers Club The Pleasanton Mothers Club provides a social, supportive and educational outlet for moms and their families in the local community. They meet at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday monthly. Call 927-2444 or visit www.pleasantonmothersclub.org.

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

Concerts

'Sing-It-Yourself Messiah' Valley Concert Chorale will host its annual "Sing-It-Yourself Messiah" at 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 12, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets are \$10. Call 866-4003 or visit www.valleyconcertchorale.org.

Valley Concert Chorale Annual Holiday Concerts Valley Concert Chorale presents its annual Holiday Concert at 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 6, at First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L streets, Livermore; and at 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 7, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Pleasanton. Tickets are \$18 in advance; \$20 at the door. Call 866-4003 or visit www.valleyconcertchorale.org.

Events

Free Lunch and Learn Program ValleyCare Medical Plaza will host "Acupressure, A Complementary Therapy To Aid The Healing Process" presented by Jennifer Dayrel, from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 10, at ValleyCare Medical Plaza, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Pleasanton. This event is free, but reservations are required by calling 734-3319 by Dec. 4.



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Free Reverse Mortgage Seminar Maggie O'Connell will host a free Reverse Mortgage Seminar from 10:30-11:30 a.m., Friday, Dec. 5, at Carrows Restaurant, 7505 Dublin Blvd., Dublin. Refreshments will be served. Call 344-4500 or visit www.reversemortgagestore.com.

Holidays in the Vineyards Garre Winery, 7986 Tesla Road, Livermore, to feature several arts and crafts booths from noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 6 and 7. Includes wine and holiday themed gifts, coat drive, gift drive, Holiday Stew served in sourdough bowls, gingerbread, holiday treats, special wine tastings, hot apple cider and more. Call 371-8200 or visit www.garrewinery.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 Cathe Norman, 462-7495; Matt Sullivan, mjs7882@gmail.com; or kdowding@pacbell.net.

Preschool Open House Centerpointe Christian Preschool will be open for parent tours from 9 to 11 a.m. Dec. 10 and 11. The preschool is located on the new Centerpointe Presbyterian Church campus at 3410 Cornerstone Court. The curriculum is designed to focus on developing the whole child with age-appropriate instruction and activities conducted by a credentialed staff. Call 461-3011 or visit www.centerpointepreschool.org.

Exhibits

Come Home for the Holidays The exhibit at Museum On Main, 603 Main St., runs through Jan. 11 and will showcase winter holiday traditions in Pleasanton and Pleasanton's sister cities Tulancingo, Mexico, and Blairgowrie, Scotland. The cost is a \$2 donation. Call 462-2766 or visit www.museumonmain.org.

From Livermore to Lhasa Me & MAI Friend's Deli Cafe, 4713 First St., Ste. 150, features photography of Carole Hilton through Dec. 9. Photographs are from Latin America, Tibet, Spain and California.

Unifying Threads Experience a variety of handmade textiles suitable to wear, show or give from Nov. 15 to Dec. 31 at Worthington Gallery West, 739 Main St. The show benefits the Cuna Indians as well as Oxfam's Sisters on the Planet. Call 485-1183.

Film

'Sick and Tired of Being Sick and Tired?' Learn how dysfunction of the brain's control center can lead to a variety of pain and symptoms at a free movie screening from 6:15-7:30 p.m., Monday, Dec. 15, at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call 209-9871.

Fundraisers

'Music in the Halls' Come and enjoy wine, chocolate tasting, hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction and music at "Music in the Halls" from 7-11 p.m., Friday, Dec. 5, at Carden West School, 4576 Willow Rd., Pleasanton. Cost is \$25. Proceeds benefit for Wine for Wheels Foundation. Call 463-6060 or visit www.cardenwest.org.

Bay Area Food Bank LilyAnn's Lingerie is collecting food for the Bay Area Food Bank and will offer a discount when you bring in two cans of food through December, at LilyAnn's, 350 Main St. A barrel is outside the store for donations. Food items that are needed include canned meats, fish, vegetables, fruits, beans and soup; peanut butter; cereal; dry milk and pasta. Call 846-1950.

Calendars Support the Classrooms The doorways of downtown Pleasanton are featured in calendars that will help raise money for Foothill High and Lydiksen Elementary schools. The calendars sold out at registration, netting over \$2,000 for the schools; more are being sold at the following downtown businesses: Towne Center Books, The Berry Patch, Milfeur and Sincerely Yours; as well as at the farmers' market Saturday.

Claws for Paws Crab Feast Join Tri-Valley Animal Rescue from 6 to 10 p.m. Feb. 7 for all-you-can-eat crab dinner with a no host bar. The event includes a live and silent auction as well as a cash drawing raffle. Tickets are \$45 by Jan. 17 or \$50. Call 323-8517 or visit www.tvr.org.

Cool Yule Fundraising Gala The Tri-Valley's newest performing arts group, Pride of the Pacific women's a cappella chorus, presents their inaugural concert at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 6 at the Aahmes Event Center, 170 Lindbergh Ave. Cool Yule is a dinner show and will feature a tri-tip dinner (vegetarian entree available), silent auction and raffle. Tickets are \$35. Call 980-0311 or visit www.prideofthepacific.org.

Music in the Halls This event, from 7 to 11 p.m. Dec. 5 at Carden West School, 4576 Willow Road, benefits the Wine for Wheels Foundation, providing wheelchairs for those in need. It includes wine and chocolate tasting, hors d'oeuvres and music by professional and amateur artists. An auction will feature four tickets to the Inauguration of the President and an Inaugural Ball in Washington, D.C. Tickets are \$25. Call 463-6060 or visit www.cardenwest.org.

Pose for a Cause The SOLD Project, which seeks to inspire and empower individuals to stop child

Coming soon . . . A workshop on

Time and Stress Management for Teens

Monday, December 8
6:30 – 8 p.m.
Amador Valley High School library
1155 Santa Rita Road
Pleasanton

High school students and parents of middle and high school students are invited to come and learn about the relationship between time management and stress management.

Topics will include:

- Time management principles
- Tools for organizing time usage
- How to prioritize
- Identifying time wasters
- Goal setting
- Recognition and causes of stress
- Benefits of stress management



Presenter Susan Calcagno has over 20 years experience in training and curriculum development related to time, stress, and change management and teaching the balance between work and life.

Sponsored by Amador Valley Adult and Community Education and the
Pleasanton Unified School District

To pre-register, call 925-426-4280 or email publicinfo@pleasanton.k12.ca.us

prostitution before it begins, is partnering with Firestone Photography to offer family portraits, with discounted rates and portions benefiting the organization. There are 22 sessions available Dec. 6 at Sycamore Grove Park in Livermore. For details, email rachelg@thesoldproject.com.

Holiday

Breakfast with Santa Living Vine Fellowship, 4100 First St., hosts a pancake breakfast, storytime with Santa, puppet show by the Fratello Marionettes, face painting, crafts and more from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Dec. 20. Tickets are \$5 before Nov. 20 or \$7 after. Call 727-7094. Register online at www.livingvinefellowship.com.

DHS Alumni Association Holiday Party The Dublin High Alumni Association is hosting its third annual Holiday Party at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 12 at Lucky Pizza, 7410 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. Pizza and refreshments will be provided. Contact DHSAA Chair Eric Swalwell, eswalwell@dublin-highalums.org.

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.

Holiday Celebrations Around the World The family show at 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 13 at Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, will include seasonal stories and songs from around the world with appearances by traditional characters and some surprises. Tickets are \$14-\$20 for adults and \$8-\$16 for children. Call 931-3444 or visit www.civcartstickets.org.

Holiday Events at Stoneridge Shopping Center Stoneridge Shopping Center will host numerous holiday events during the month of December. An appearance by Oakland A's Ryan Sweeney and Travis Buck from 4-6 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Santa set in the Grand Court. Cost is \$5 or more to benefit the Simon Youth Foundation. Breakfast with Santa at 10 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 7, in the Grand Court. Pet photos with Santa from 9:45-10:45 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 14. A Chanukah Celebration with Chabad of the Tri-Valley from 4-5:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 28. The mall is located at One Stoneridge Mall Rd. Call 737-4100.

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 be dropped off at 1024 Serpentine Lane, Ste. 105 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays until Dec. 12. Call 846-1859 or email info@jlcpa.net.

Holiday Home Tour Downtown Pleasanton homes are decked out for the holidays and are open for a tour, festive carolers, treats, wine, live music and shopping opportunities. The tour is from 2 to 6 p.m. Dec. 7 and is hosted by the Valley Humane Society. Tickets are \$35. Call 426-8656.

Holidays in the Vineyards Holidays in the Vineyards, hosted by the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association, will be held from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at participating Livermore Valley wineries, presenting wine tastings, music, arts and crafts. Guests are encouraged to bring toys for Toys for Tots. Holidays in the Vineyards at Mitchell Katz Winery, 1188 Vineyard Ave., will be from noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 6 and 7. Tastings are \$5 and there will also be vendors and a guest appearance by Santa from 1 to 2 p.m. Dec. 7.

Pet Photos with Santa Tri-Valley Animal Rescue (TVAR) is holding its first Pet Photos with Santa fundraising event from 1 to 5 p.m. Dec. 6 at Pet Extreme, 4500 Arroyo Vista, Livermore. It is \$20 for two four by six inch photos. All proceeds benefit TVAR. No appointment is necessary. For safety reasons all animals must be in carriers or leashed. Call 447-8903 or visit www.tvvar.org.

Santa & Pet Photo Event Bring your pet to Valley Humane Society, 3670 Nevada St., for a shot with Santa from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 6 and 7. Photos digitally printed on site. All animals welcome on leash or in a carrier. The cost is \$25. Call 426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumane.org.

St. Philip Annual Santa Breakfast The public can enjoy a pancake breakfast and a photo with Santa from 8 to 11 a.m. Dec. 6 at St. Philip Lutheran School, 8850 Davona Drive, Dublin. There will also be craft vendors there. Tickets are \$7 for ages 12 and up, \$5 for children ages 3 to 11 and free for ages 3 and under. Call 829-3857.

Valley Dance Theatre to Perform The Nutcracker The Valley Dance Theatre presents "The Nutcracker" with music by the Livermore-Amador Symphony pit orchestra with carols by Harmony Fusion Chorus and the Valley Concert Chorale. Shows are at 7 p.m. Dec. 13, 19 and 20, and at 2 p.m. Dec. 13, 20 and 21, at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$23-\$31 for adults and \$17 for students 17 and younger. Call 373-6800 or visit www.bankheadtheater.org.

Kids & Teens

Tri-Valley High: Home for the Holidays Creatures of Impulse, City of Pleasanton Civic Arts' teen improv troupe, presents an interactive and energetic show that is for teenagers, by teenagers and about teenagers and has a holiday theme. The audience will be involved in creating the story from start to finish. Shows are at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 11 and 12 at the Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main St. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Call 931-3444 or visit www.civcartstickets.org.

Lectures/Workshops

Mortgage Modification Program and Stress Reduction Techniques Learn how you could benefit from

mortgage modification with a company that has a near 90 percent success rate from 6 to 9 p.m. Dec. 10 at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Also included will be tips to help conquer stress. This class is free, but registration is required: <http://december10.eventbrite.com>. Call 831-4831.

On Stage

Pan & Wendy Cal State University East Bay presents Pan & Wendy at 7 p.m. Dec. 12 and 13 and 3 p.m. Dec. 13. Tickets are \$8 or \$6 for youth, seniors and alumni; \$4 for students and children. Call 510-885-3118 or

visit class.csueastbay.edu/theatre. Shows are at the University Theatre, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward.

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tion to care and maintenance as our hearts. Engaging in active learning will help maintain brain health. This new weekly program, meeting at 10 a.m. every Friday starting Sept. 5, combines lectures and interactive workshops dedicated to improving brain health and function. The cost is \$1.50 for residents or \$2 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

Celebrate the Season Safely
Holiday food and beverage choices can interact with medications and supplements. Keep the cheer in your holidays by learning to avoid the adverse side effects that may be caused by these interactions at 10 a.m. Dec. 9 at the senior center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Fee is \$1.50 for residents or \$2 for non-residents.

Deacon Dave's Christmas Lights
Seniors are invited to sing and carol

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Pleasanton Real Estate News



by Gerarda Stocking

DOES THE FEDERAL RESERVE SET MORTGAGE RATES?

No—emphatically no. The Federal Reserve sets the fed funds rate, the rate at which banks borrow from one another overnight. This does generally influence short-term rates, and sometimes longer-term rates as well, but the important indicator to watch if you wish to know where long-term (15- and 30-year) mortgage rates are headed is the ten-year Treasury note. The rates on 30-year fixed-rate mortgages tend to track that rate rather closely.

Notice, though, that the 10-year note rate is set by open bidding. It thus is a true market rate, not set by an individual or an organization, but by all the people who want to invest in the note at a particular time.

Now, if the Fed raises or lowers its fed funds rate, does that have a strong effect on any mortgages? Yes. The prime rate charged by banks—which many construction loans and other adjustable mortgages are linked to—rises and falls with the fed funds rate.

More important, perhaps, is the simple fact that that the Fed's action lets the markets know where it intends short-term rates to go. Adjustable rate mortgages are then moved into alignment with their index, usually a short-term rate like the 1-year Treasury, and thus the Fed had more of a say regarding adjustable loans than long-term fixed-rate loans.

The moral of this story? The financial issues surrounding mortgages are always too complex to be explained with simplistic answers. When questions arise, seek out the seasoned wisdom of your real estate and mortgage advisors. For help with your transaction or more information call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

Gerarda Stocking is the Owner/Broker of Stocking Realty.

Calendar

all the way to Deacon Dave's for a Christmas Light Extravaganza in Livermore from 6-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 18, meeting at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Meet at the Senior Center for light refreshments, then board Pleasanton Paratransit vans. Tour includes light walking, so dress accordingly. Cost is \$8 for residents; \$10 for non-residents. Reservations are required; call 931-5365.

Hometown Holiday Parade Want to fulfill your dream of being in a parade? Seniors (62 years or older) will board Pleasanton Paratransit vans to join in the Pleasanton Hometown Parade from 4:30-7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 6, meeting at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Light refreshments will be served. Only 20 spots are available, so register early; call 931-5365.

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

Spiritual

Advent Lessons and Carols
Anticipate the coming holiday with a special service filled with choral song and scripture at 10:15 a.m. Dec. 7 at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road. All are welcome. Call 462-4802 or visit www.stclarespleasanton.org.

Bible Study Fellowship The 33-week study of The Life of Moses

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Calendar

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. Men's class meets at 6:55 p.m. Tuesdays at Community Presbyterian Church in Danville. Call 877-273-3228.

Compline with Taize Music End the day with candlelight, choral song and contemplation at 5:15 p.m. Dec. 14 at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road. Stay after the service for fellowship of a covered dish supper. Donations accepted. Call 462-4802 or visit www.stclarespleasanton.org.

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.

The Longest Night Come discover God as a light in your personal darkness at a special service of prayers, scripture and meditations at 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 21, at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Rd. Call 462-4802 or visit www.stclare-spleasanton.org.

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

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

Cheer Clinic Foothill High School's nationally ranked cheer squad will be holding a cheer clinic from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Dec. 20. They will teach new dances, cheers, jumps, motions and other fun cheer games. The cost is \$45, which also includes a T-shirt, certificate, prizes and lunch. A parent performance will be at the end of the day. Space is limited. For registration and information, email Suzanne Oliveira at suz96GT@aol.com or call 510-226-8832 or Kim DeJoy at kdejoyfhscheer@comcast.net or call 360-6102.

Mountain Rides Join cyclists of all levels for this friendly, no-drop mountain ride which lasts approximately two hours. Riders should be in good fitness, have a well-adjusted, safe mountain bike and general knowledge of bike handling skills. Odd-numbered months, the Cyclepath group goes to the Pleasanton Ridge and even-numbered months, they go to Lake Chabot. For the ridge rides, meet the Cyclepath group at the Foothill staging area. Rides are from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information, contact rides@cyclepath.com or call 485-3218.

Support Groups

Alzheimer's Disease Support The Alzheimer's Association has developed a checklist to help recognize the possible warning signs of the disease as well as suggestions to help make the holiday season enjoyable. Call (800) 272-3900 or visit www.alz.org.

Cancer Support Group A general support group for people with cancer and their loved ones meets from 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays at ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd. Call 933-0107 or visit www.twcba.org.

Caregiver Support Group This support group meets Dec. 8 at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. It explores resources and generates problem-solving ideas through the Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley. Call 931-5389.

ClutterLess (CL) Self Help Group ClutterLess (CL) is a nonprofit, peer-based, self-help, support group for people with difficulty discarding unwanted possessions. Cluttering is a psychological issue, not an organizing issue. They meet at 7 p.m. every Monday at the St. Mary and St. John Coptic Orthodox Church, room 7, 4300 Mirador Drive. Call 200-1943 (woman) or 297-9246 (man) or visit www.clutterless.org.

Death Support Group The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Whether the death was sudden or one with warning, the reality of death leaves most of us in a state of shock. Join this group at 7:30 p.m., on the second and fourth Thursday of every month, at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr. The meetings are open to all, regardless of religious orientation. Call Mary at 846-5377.

Overeaters Anonymous Do you worry about the way you eat? You are not alone. Overeaters Anonymous may have the answer for you. This is not a diet club. OA is a fellowship of people recovering from compulsive overeating, starving and/or purging. OA offers mutual support and a helpful plan of action. They meet at 7 p.m. every Tuesday at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way, Livermore. Visit www.diablovalleyoa.org.

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

Tri-Valley Parkinson's Support Group The group meets at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., to provide information and support for Parkinson's patients and caregivers. Call 831-9940.

Holiday PhoDOgraphy!

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The City of Pleasanton invites you to apply for a position on the following standing commissions and committees:

- Civic Arts Commission
- Parks & Recreation Commission
- Housing Commission
- Planning Commission
- Human Services Commission
- Youth Commission (Youth and Adult)
- Library Commission

Economic Vitality Committee

Representatives are being sought in the following categories:

- Business At-Large
- Citizen At-Large
- Commercial Real Estate Development
- Commercial Service Firm
- Community Based Organization
- Environmental Industry
- Financial Services
- Infrastructure
- Medical Services
- Medical Technology
- Residential Real Estate Broker

Energy and Environment Committee (7 members including one youth)

Alameda County Paratransit Advisory Committee

The City of Pleasanton and the Pleasanton Unified School District Liaison Committee invite you to apply for a position on the Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee.

- Senior Citizen Representative
- Village High School Representative (2 Positions)
- Hart Middle School
- Harvest Park Middle School
- Pleasanton Middle School
- Parent at Large (Pre-School Student)

Applications for commissions and committees are available at the City Clerk's office, 123 Main Street, Pleasanton or on the City's Website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us. For additional information, call the office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027.

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN
5:00 P.M., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2008.
POSTMARKS ARE NOT ACCEPTED.**