

Pleasanton Weekly

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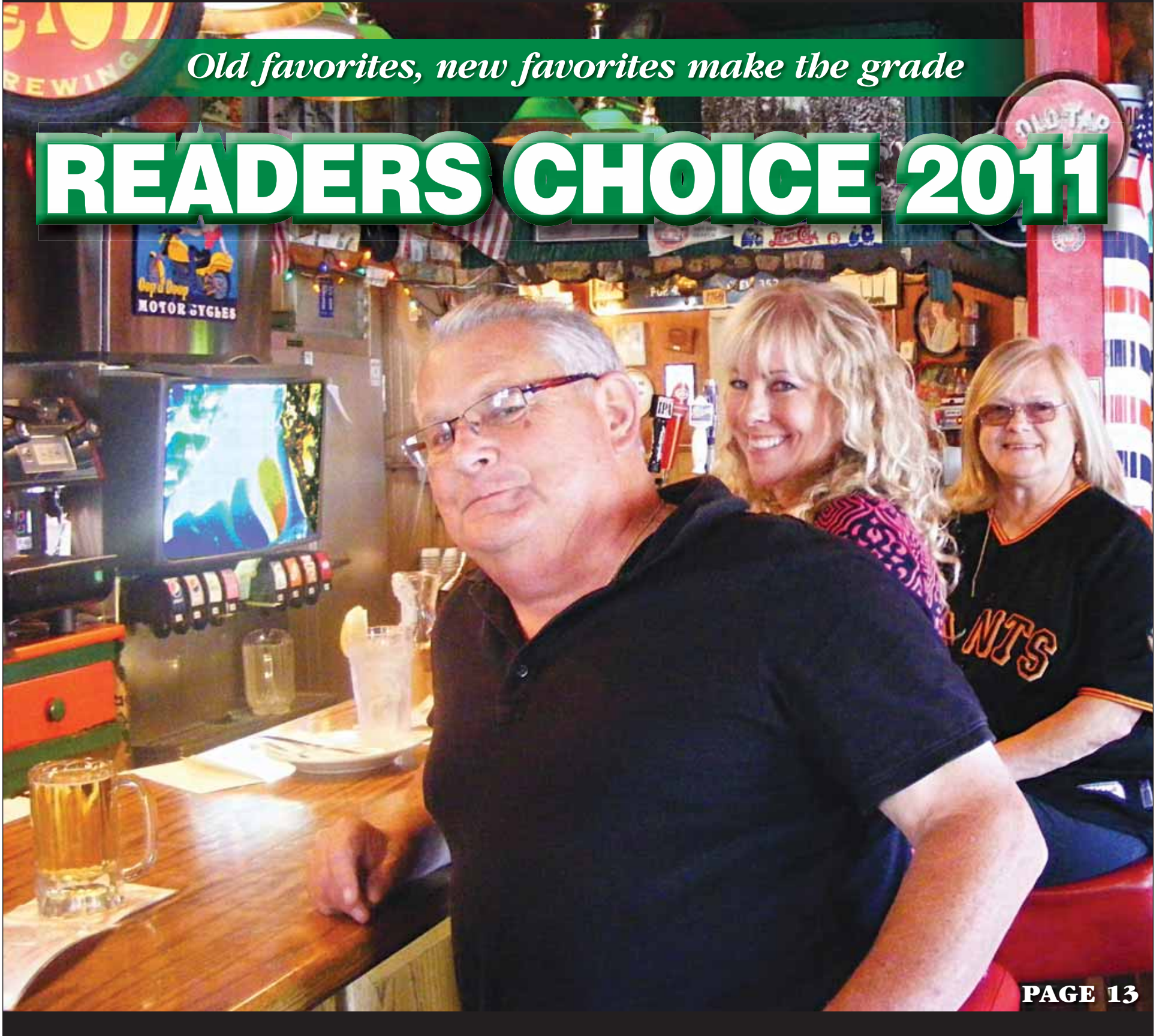
Stabilizing housing market is key to economic recovery **SECTION 2**

VOL. XII, NUMBER 28 · JULY 22, 2011

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Old favorites, new favorites make the grade

READERS CHOICE 2011



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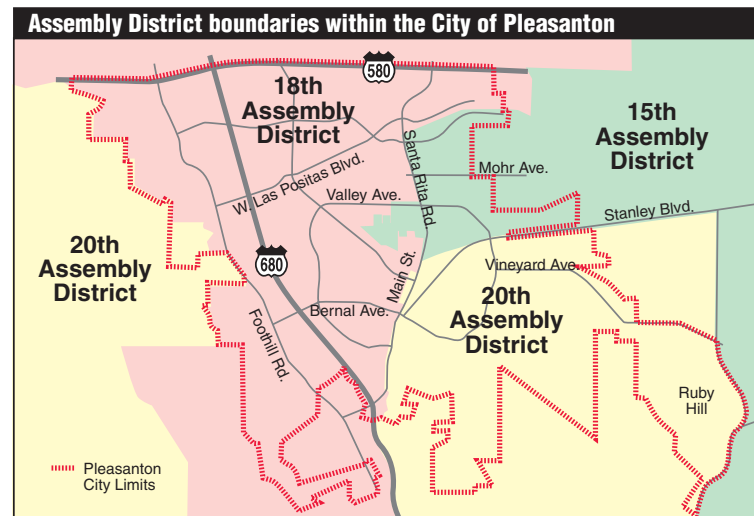
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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING



City's three Assembly districts are going away.

An update on redistricting

Paul Mitchell of Redistricting Partners, a Democrat, former legislative staffer and now a consultant focusing on legislative races and independent expenditures, is talking this week about likely court challenges to the Citizen's Redistricting Commission's final map of congressional, Board of Equalization, state senate and assembly districts that is based on 2010 Census data. The 14-member commission is responsible for redrawing the boundaries based on population shifts over the last 10 years, and also taking into account public input and the federal Voting Rights Act, which protects against "minority vote dilution."

Mitchell, in his update of the commission's progress last Wednesday, reports that the state's Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye has begun looking for judges that can take on the workload. This should be an ominous backdrop for the commission as it completes its work this week.

Mitchell says the commission's redistricting plans would go to the Supreme Court if enough signatures were gathered for a referendum. This means that opponents could see what a court plan would look like by just completing that first step. It's easy to talk about gathering signatures to overturn a redistricting plan, particularly if you are one of the 67 elected officials who find themselves drawn into a district with someone else, as our Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-11th) appears to be with the 11th being moved east and out of Pleasanton where McNerney lives. Pleasanton would now become part of Democratic Congressman Pete Stark's 13th District.

But for those who would like to contest the commission's recom-

mendations, Mitchell asks who would be willing to front a couple million dollars for that first phase? Is the differential between the commission product and possible new lines great enough to justify that cost, let alone the eventual campaign? Although individual politicians who are directly affected by the redistricting change might not bankroll a court challenge, organizations could. As Mitchell points out, the lack of involvement by anyone in the Jewish community is explored in the Jewish Journal's July 19 edition, which isn't happy about new boundaries that ignore the Orthodox community in Los Angeles. Making a single Congressman, State Senator or Assembly member responsible for the bulk of the Westside's Orthodox Jews likely would make those politicians more responsive to the community's specific concerns, the magazine states. A Latino rights group already has called the redistricting drafts a "worst case scenario for Latinos."

One of the biggest impacts of the new redistricting plan falls here on Pleasanton. Besides moving McNerney's district out of the city, the proposed new boundaries also appear to get rid of the three Assembly district split that the city's political leaders have found annoying for years (see map above). It made no sense. With the city split into three separate Assembly districts, none of the three Assembly members considered their voting base here very important. While it's still unclear where the boundaries are in the 15th, 18th and 20th state Assembly districts, which are represented by Joan Buchanan, Mary Hayashi and Bob Weickowski, respectively, the redistricting commission has moved the boundaries east, west and north out of Pleasanton. What's left is so far a blank space with no numbered district or Assembly member. The city's hopes of returning to a single representative in Sacramento may finally be realized. ■

About the Cover

Gay Nineties Pizza on Main Street won Best Pizza in our Readers Choice contest, and (l-r) Jesse Gregory, Ruth Dennis-Collins and Mary Jo Quesada are fans. Photo by Priyanka Mody. Design by Lili Cao.

Vol. XII, Number 28



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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

If you had an extra hour in the day, what would you do?



Frank Majors

Board of Directors, Kirkwood Ski Resort

I would read a good action or mystery book.

Randy Lomas

Teacher

I'd like to read more, and I would work on Math Olympiad at the elementary school schools.



Haley Carr

Student

I would read for an extra hour and then I'd go to sleep.

Emlyn Schmidt

Student

I would probably sleep, because I'm going to be a freshman at CSU Stanislaus and I know I'll be tired.



Tatjana Baker

Hairstylist/aspiring tattoo artist

I'd use my extra hour to work to earn more money to finish off my sleeve tattoos.

—Compiled by Kerry Nally

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

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DIGEST

Relay for Life tomorrow

Thirty-two teams will be running around the track at Pleasanton Middle School tomorrow in an American Cancer Society Relay for Life to celebrate those who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and to fight back against the disease. The opening ceremony is at 10 a.m. with the Survivors Lap at 10:30 a.m. Special laps take place throughout the day, with a Luminaria Ceremony at 9 p.m. After the running continuing throughout the night, the closing ceremony will be held at 8 a.m. Sunday.

This year's 32 teams, with 289 participants, have raised \$62,000 so far for cancer research.

\$1 million in pot plants

East Bay Regional Park police officers recovered about \$1 million worth of marijuana plants early last Friday morning when they raided a growing operation in a remote area of Las Trampas Regional Wilderness, police said. About 3,300 plants were recovered in the raid, which was conducted at about 4 a.m. at an area between Castro Valley and San Ramon.

The growing operation had been found earlier during routine park patrols. An elaborate irrigation system tapped into the park's water supply was watering the plants.

Grow operations are of particular concern to the park district since the suspects remove areas of native vegetation and use fertilizer, poisons and pesticides around the marijuana plants, according to police.

The plants were taken to an undisclosed location and destroyed. Anyone with information about the growing operation is asked to call East Bay Regional Parks Police at (510) 881-1833.

9.6% tuition hike at UC

A 9.6% tuition increase for University of California schools was approved last week by a 14-4 vote of the UC Regents Board, an attempt to close \$650 million in state funding cuts. This is in addition to an 8% increase last November.

The increase will affect about 55% of current students, according to UC officials, because of financial aid options given to those whose family income is less than \$80,000 per year.

Under the new tuition rates, California resident undergraduate students will pay \$13,218 per year and out-of-state students will pay \$36,096. Graduate students in academic programs will have their tuition raised by 9.6% to \$12,824 for Californians and \$27,926 for non-residents.

PUSD Neal School lawsuit ends

District, law firm split award, with bulk going to firm

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

After spending \$2 million to fight a lawsuit, the decade-long battle over construction of Neal Elementary School has ended, with a little more \$350,000 headed back to the district.

The issue dates back to 2001 when Signature Properties agreed to loan the Pleasanton Unified School District \$8.1 million to build the school at Vineyard Avenue and Thiessen Street.

However, when former Superintendent John Casey was hired in 2002, he determined that the cost of Neal had risen to \$13.5 million, \$5 million more than the PUSD could afford to reimburse the developers under what the district's own lawyers had told him was a binding agreement. Casey said the developers should pay the difference, which would not be reimbursed.

The developers, through Signature's law firm of Bernard, Balgley & Bonaccorsi of Newark,

argued that they had never signed such an agreement and initiated court action to clarify their position. In 2008, the court agreed and ordered the district to reimburse the developers for \$2.1 million in legal fees plus another \$500,000 for the architectural plans the developers had prepared.

PUSD then hired Signature's lawyers to sue its own law firm, Lozano Smith, for legal malpractice. The district claimed, among other things, that Lozano Smith wrote an illegal ACFA (Amended Cooperative Fee Agreement) that violated public bid requirements.

The district also claimed Lozano Smith and attorney Robert Freiman wrote an ACFA that was "ambiguous and unenforceable," and failed to amend it before construction on the property was delayed from 2001 to 2002, during which time construction costs rose well above

the \$8.5 million Signature Properties originally agreed to pay.

Although it originally hoped to get the \$8.5 million promised by the developer, in its lawsuit against Lozano Smith, the district set its sights much lower: It sued to recover the \$2.6 million judgment against it from its original lawsuit with Signature and nearly \$2 million in legal costs from that suit.

Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi, without mentioning Lozano Smith, said this week "the district was released" from the \$2.5 million it owed Signature. Ahmadi said the total received was \$1.315 million, with the district receiving \$357,885.41.

Signature's attorneys signed on with the agreement that the company would accept whatever

See **LAWSUIT** on Page 7



PHOTOS BY JAY FLACHSBARTH

The first winery pouring was by Little Valley Winery at the Firehouse Arts Center, the start of Thursday's downtown Pleasanton wine stroll. Top: A long line or "Strollers" formed outside the Firehouse Arts Center as they waited to get checked in.

Wine stroll attracts hundreds to Pleasanton downtown

Crowds fill streets for popular summertime event

Hundreds turned out last Thursday night for the summer wine stroll in downtown Pleasanton, enjoying treats and/or hors d'oeuvres to pair with a large selection of wines and champagne offered at 30 retail and service businesses on Main Street and many of the side streets.

Called "Truffles, Tidbits & Wine Tasting," the twice-annual event is sponsored by the Pleasanton Downtown Association.

Wine strollers received commemorative wine glasses and a map showing the par-

ticipating downtown locations with the only stipulation that their glasses had to be empty when they moved from one wine-pouring location to the other. Tickets were \$25-\$30.

This summer's wine stroll came on an unseasonably cool July evening, yet the enthusiastic crowds filling downtown streets didn't seem to mind. Many merchants also ignored the lower-than-usual temperatures, with tables set on the sidewalks outside their establishments to encourage strollers to go inside.

—Jeb Bing

Council OKs plan to rezone 105 acres for 'affordable' homes

After state review, only 60 acres likely to face development

By JEB BING

In a sweeping move, the Pleasanton City Council voted unanimously Tuesday night to approve a preliminary plan to rezone 17 separate sites in Pleasanton totaling 105 acres for more than 3,000 "affordable" high-density housing units.

The draft of what's called the city's Housing Element will now be sent to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for its review to determine if the council's action meets requirements being imposed on Pleasanton. Both the state and an Alameda County Superior Court judge have ruled that the city failed to keep pace with housing demands for low- to very-low and moderate income families based on state-approved measures by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), which determines the housing mix for local communities.

"The facts are that it's the state Legislature or ABAG that's now telling us how many housing units we have to have in Pleasanton," Councilman Jerry Thorne said. "We want to make sure we have local control over what is built here."

Tuesday's action approved a 2-inch-thick document of reports by the council-appointed Housing Element Task Force, an 11-member group that has held more than a year of community meetings, public hearings and studies in response to the Superior Court and state rulings to provide more affordable living accommodations. As part of those rulings, the city's 1996 voter-approved housing cap was determined to be illegal and was scuttled. The 3,200 new housing units would meet the new requirements imposed to "catch up" with the mixed-use type of housing Pleasanton should have been encouraging.

The draft plan approved Tuesday night follows the council's earlier approval of rezoning of three sites in the Hacienda Business Park to accommodate 840 apartments.

Tuesday night's action came after nearly two hours of discussion by both council members and the public. Those who addressed the council mainly voiced their opinions over specific sites the Housing Task Force recommended for high density housing. These included 10 acres in the Gateway Center between Valley Avenue

See **COUNCIL** on Page 7

Shoplifting takes violent turn

Suspect pulls razor knife after chase

By **GLENN WOHLTMANN**

A routine shoplifting bust at the Stoneridge Shopping Center recently ended in violence when a suspect being chased by a security guard confronted and threatened his pursuer, a police report said.

The incident took place between 8:25 and 8:30 p.m. July 17 at JC Penny when a suspect was accused of the theft of a \$68 pair of Nike high-top sneakers. The suspect ran, and a loss prevention worker gave chase, but the man stopped, turned

and produced a folding razor blade knife and threatened the worker, according to the report.

The man then ran toward a parking structure on Stoneridge Mall Road; police set up a perimeter in the area but the suspect was not located. He is described as a white male, 5 feet 9-10 inches tall, weighing 150 to 160 pounds with brown hair. He was last seen wearing a hat and gray and white striped shirt. No further description was available. ■

TAKE US ALONG



Road trip: The Thomas family — Chris, Pauline, Noah and Julia — spent a month on the road last summer, driving up the coast of California into Oregon and Washington, then heading east through Idaho, touring Montana, on to Yellowstone, south to Utah, then back west to Nevada and California. “How amazing America is,” summed up their report.

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East Bay cities supporting redevelopment lawsuit

Oakland leads appeal to overturn state measure aimed at scuttling agencies

By **JEB BING**

Most East Bay cities have joined the city of Oakland in a lawsuit to overturn state budget bills that would eliminate redevelopment agencies.

Oakland Mayor Jean Quan addressed a rally Wednesday in support of the lawsuit, which is being filed before the state Supreme Court by the League of California Cities and the California Redevelopment Association.

Speaking along with other mayors at the Coliseum Transit Village in Oakland, directly behind the Coliseum BART station, Quan said the Transit Village project could not go forward without assistance from the city's Redevelopment agency. Over 100 construction jobs would be lost due to the cancellation of the project, she said.

Quan said that last November, state voters passed Proposition 22 by an overwhelming majority. The measure stopped state raids of local redevelopment funds.

“Despite this clear voter mandate, legislators passed and the governor signed AB 26 and 27

in blatant violation of Prop. 22 and the will of the voters,” she said. “AB 26 would abolish redevelopment agencies and AB 27 would allow agencies to exist in some limited capacity only if they agreed to pay a ‘ransom’ payment of \$1.7 billion statewide in the first year and \$400 million statewide each year thereafter.”

Although Pleasanton long ago decided against forming a redevelopment agency, the city as a member of the League of California Cities is supporting the league's position. It is not part of the lawsuit, however, and is not contributing to any legal fees the league incurs.

“We are a member of the League of California Cities and support all of its legislative efforts to maintain local control,” explained City Manager Nelson Fialho.

“While we are not affected by the RDA elimination, we oppose all attempts by the state to reduce local control in the areas of land use, city finances and other operational matters that are important to sustaining a quality community like Pleasanton.”

In a scathing report on redevelopment agencies in California last March, State Controller John Chiang cited millions of dollars in waste, misappropriation of funds and poor management of programs intended to help blighted areas.

The results of the five-week, limited-scope review of 18 redevelopment agencies across the state, found no reliable means to measure the impact of redevelopment activity on job growth. He said the agencies either do not track their impact or their methodologies lack uniformity and are often arbitrary.

The review exposed the difficulty of holding RDAs accountable for their funding decisions when existing legal standards are so loose that any area can be deemed “blighted.”

The report also identified several missed payments to school districts and widespread accounting and reporting deficiencies, questionable payroll practices, substandard audits, faulty loans and inappropriate use of affordable housing funds. ■

Safeway customers donate groceries for the needy

One-day drive helpful in summer for those relying on school lunch programs

Customers at Pleasanton's Safeway supermarket purchased 72 bags of specially produced groceries Saturday as part of a one-day, Bay Area-wide effort to aid food banks that serve the needy.

The bags, priced below cost by Safeway at \$10 each, contained tuna, peanut butter, cereal, canned vegetables, spaghetti, macaroni and cheese and instant mashed potatoes. Safeway launched the grocery bag offering to make donations easier for shoppers and to ensure that food bank recipients receive good quality items.

“Food banks depend on the community to ensure we're able to meet the needs of our neighbors facing hunger throughout the Bay Area,” said Michael Altfest, communications manager for the Alameda County Community Food Bank. “We're grateful for this support.”

“We see some of our greatest increase in need during the summer months when school is out of session and our clients struggle to provide three meals for their families each day,” he added. “These donations will go a long way in making sure more families receive the nutritious food they deserve today.”

Karl Schroeder, president of Safeway's Northern California Division, said Safeway contributes \$175 million in food donations to food banks each year across the



Preparing some of the 72 bags of groceries Pleasanton Safeway customers donated to area food banks Saturday are (from left) Josh Smith, Travis Montel and Jessica Takenouchi. The bags, which sold for \$10, were part of a Bay Area drive to help those in need during summer months when schools and school lunch programs are closed.

U.S. and partners with local organizations in the summer and fall by placing food collection barrels in stores.

“We are proud to be partnering with our area food banks and these important volunteer organizations on this community-wide collection effort,” Schroeder said. “The statistics are alarming: one in five children are hungry in the

summer.”

Working with Safeway and Altfest's Alameda County food bank Saturday were Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, San Francisco Food Bank, Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties, Napa Valley Food Bank and Redwood Empire Food Bank.

—Jeb Bing

Chief names new captain and lieutenant

Promotions follow appointment of new chief in May

By **GLENN WOHLTMANN**

Police Chief Dave Spiller has announced his first departmental restructuring since being appointed to the top job in May.

Lt. Craig Eicher will be promoted to captain on July 27, to fill the position left vacant when Spiller was named chief. Eicher will head the Investigations and Services Division, which includes four areas of responsibility: Criminal Investigations Unit, Youth and Community Services Unit, Professional Standards Unit, covering Personnel and Training, and Support Services, covering Dispatch and Records.

Capt. Eric Finn will continue in

command of the Operations Division.

Sgt. Jim Knox will rise to the rank of lieutenant to fill the slot vacated by Eicher, who has been supervising the Traffic Division.

Eicher and Knox will be recognized at a badge pinning and oath of office ceremony July 27 at the Police Department.

Eicher was promoted to lieutenant in 2007. He began his career at the Pleasanton Police Department in December 1989 as a police reserve officer. His assignments have included bike patrol, field training officer, motor officer, detective and detective sergeant. He was promot-

ed to the rank of sergeant in May 2002 and holds a master's degree from St. Mary's College.

Knox has been with the department since 1987 and has recently served as the supervisor of the investigations division. He's a trainer on "perishable skills" — which can include control during arrests and firearms — and a former S.W.A.T. officer. Knox is also a graduate of the Sherman Bloc Supervisory Leadership Institute.

Chief Spiller said Eicher and Knox are "great guys that I think are going to support my vision and keep moving the organization forward." ■

LAWSUIT

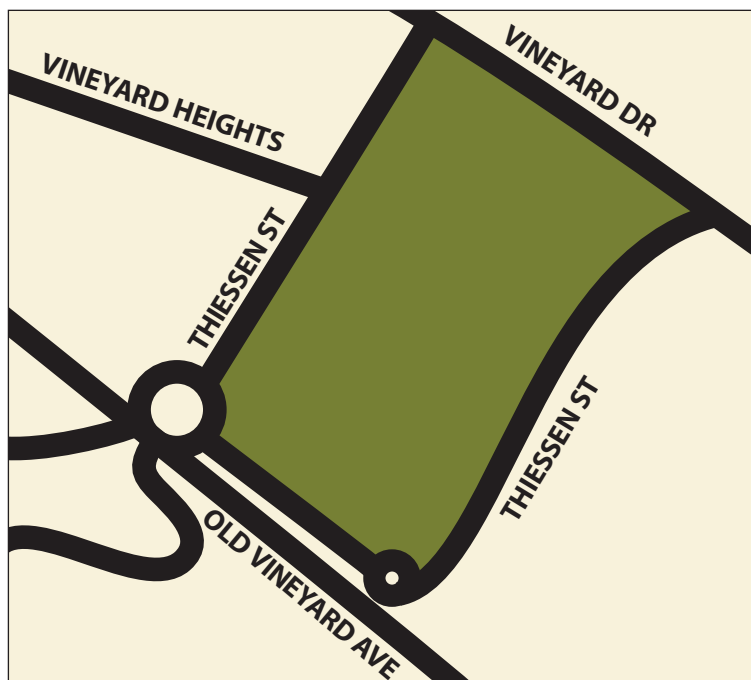
Continued from Page 5

settlement came out of the suit.

The suit was resolved July 7 by an oral agreement not entered into court records, which avoided legal requirements for prompt filing of documents. Neither Judge Steven Austin nor Signature's attorneys would discuss the case, and School Board Member Jeff Bowser — the only member of either the board or administration who attended the hearing — deferred all questions to Ahmadi.

In addition to the \$2 million the district spent in legal fees to fight its original case, it spent \$1.1 million to add four classrooms at Valley View Elementary School, and later spent another \$847,393 for two more classrooms there.

Meanwhile, the Neal site lies vacant, surrounded by multi-million-dollar new homes built over the last six years. ■



LILI CAO

The 13-acre site planned for Neal Elementary School, which was never built.

Lab signs clean energy pact with Chinese

Organizations to collaborate on new development technologies

By **JEB BING**

The Lawrence Livermore Laboratory announced Tuesday that it has signed an agreement with the Clean Energy Research Institute in China to conduct joint research and development of clean energy technologies.

The Clean Energy Research Institute was formed by Huaneng Power International Inc., the largest power company in the world.

Under the memorandum of understanding, the Livermore Lab will create a stronger relationship with Huaneng and both parties will conduct research analysis and data exchange as established under the U.S.-China Clean Energy Research Center (CERC) that was set up last year.

The two parties will exchange information and technology on carbon capture and sequestration (CCS), enhanced oil recovery, shale gas and power engineering.

Specifically, the Livermore Lab will offer expertise in CCS, advanced material science, engineering and design and energy systems analysis.

"We plan to work on applied sci-

entific challenges in large-scale projects and deployments," said Julio Friedmann, LLNI's director of the carbon management program. "We look forward to working closely with our Chinese counterparts to find opportunities to collaborate that serve the needs of both nations."

He said the laboratory has a strong relationship with the Chinese through the CERC, a project that facilitates joint research and development of clean energy technologies including CCS by the U.S. and China.

CCS is a process that separates and captures carbon dioxide (CO₂) from industrial and power plant flue streams, then compresses the gas and stores it underground in deep geological formations. The process prevents greenhouse gas emissions from entering the atmosphere. Under normal conditions, greenhouse gas emissions contribute to global warming and climate change.

Huaneng is regarded as a major player in CCS by operating GreenGen, the first large-scale coal-fueled power plant to employ integrated CCS. In addition, the company

has operated the world's largest CCS pilot at the Shanghai Shidongkou Coal Power Plant, which uses about 15 megawatts of energy to capture 120,000 tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) per year.

Friedmann said Huaneng plans to scale up to produce 600 megawatts of energy and sequester up to 2.5 million tons of CO₂ per year.

Livermore has a long history in CCS technology by blending computer science, geology, ecology, atmospheric science and other disciplines to find solutions to a number of challenges facing the development and safe operation of carbon capture and storage (CCS) facilities.

Areas that Livermore specializes in are: development of novel CO₂ capture technologies and processes; evaluating strategies for the co-production of water; predicting the consequences of releases of CO₂; simulating subsurface pressure build-up; modeling reactive transport of CO₂ in groundwater; monitoring CO₂ plumes in subsurface; and characterizing and assessing subsurface geology. ■

Have fun, fight crime

National Night Out Against Crime on Aug. 2

Hundreds of locals will join with more than 37 million people nationwide to celebrate National Night Out Against Crime on Aug. 2. It's the 28th annual nationwide event, although it began in Pleasanton 11 years ago, starting with four neighborhood block parties that have since grown to 38.

"The parties themselves range in size in accordance with their neighborhood watch group. Some groups have 10 homes, some groups have 50," said Pleasanton Community Service Officer Shannon Revel-Whitaker. "Some work with entire neighborhoods, so they're bigger."

Parties vary from potlucks and barbecues to ice cream socials and have included DJs and live bands, bounce houses, kids' activities and street parties. Those that register with the Police Department could be visited by officers, the mayor, City Council members, the city manager or department heads.

There's a bigger purpose than just parties. The National Association of Town Watch and police departments nationwide hold the events to raise awareness about crime and drugs, to generate support for anti-crime programs, strengthen neighborhood spirit and community-police partner-

ships, and to send criminals the message that neighborhoods are organized to fight crime.

Revel-Whitaker said it's been proven that knowing one's neighbors can help deter crime.

"When you get out and get to know your neighbors," she said, "the more likely you are to call when something's amiss. We can't be everywhere at once."

It's a message that many people in Pleasanton already seem to know. In recent weeks, a phone call from one resident led to the arrest of an 18-year-old caught in the act of burglarizing another's home in the 800 block of Concord Street, and a call from another resident on Independence Drive brought about the arrest of three men believed responsible for stealing hundreds of checks from throughout the Bay Area.

Groups interested in holding a National Night Out party should register with the Police Department. Applications are available in the lobby, 4833 Bernal Ave., or at www.pleasantonpd.org. The deadline is July 29.

Volunteers, particularly entertainers, are also welcome to contact Revel-Whitaker at 931-5240.

—Glenn Wohltmann

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 5

and I-680, which would allow up to 300 new apartments behind where Safeway is building its new Lifestyle supermarket. Some said that would add too many new residents in an area already saturated with higher density housing than the rest of Pleasanton; others said the now-vacant site that is zoned for office buildings is suitable for even more high density housing.

Also controversial are the task force's recommendations for high density housing on a 16-acre site at the southeast corner of Stanley Boulevard and Bernal Avenue, across from McDonald's, and on the Kiewit site across Stanley on Valley Avenue, where 49 acres could be available for up to 300 high-density housing units.

Representatives of the Autumn Glen and Danbury Park communities said the task force recommendations would allow for too much additional housing in an area already congested by traffic and without close access to BART, the ACE train or other public transit.

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman said that although the task force recommendations will be sent to the state housing department for review, the council will revisit the proposals once that group comments on the plan.

It's expected that roughly 60 acres of the 105 acres suggested for rezoning will actually be rezoned for eventual development by affordable housing builders.

The state housing department has 60 days to review the council's recommendations, which must be submitted by Aug. 15. ■

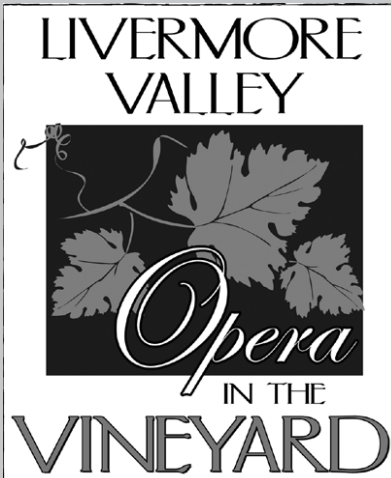
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Opinion

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

A new supervisor for Pleasanton

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors is expected to ratify a realignment of districts at its meeting Tuesday that will place Pleasanton in Supervisor Nate Miley's District 4, moving it out of District 1 where the city has long been represented by Supervisor Scott Haggerty.

The move is being made to accommodate population shifts based on the 2010 Census that showed major increases in Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley with population decreases in some of District 4, which includes about one-fourth of the city of Oakland. Miley will continue to represent just over 100,000 residents in Oakland, but Pleasanton will now become his largest "whole" city and his second largest population center. His district also continues to include the unincorporated communities of Fairview, Ashland, Castro Valley and Cherryland, but the city of Dublin, which he also represented, now moves fully into Haggerty's District 1.

The realignment is seen as good news for Pleasanton, which now gains the attention of a different supervisor while also retaining the support of Haggerty on such important issues as the widening of state Route 84 between I-680 and I-580 to reduce cut-through rush-hour traffic on Pleasanton streets. Haggerty also is expected to keep his promise to fully-fund with county dollars the planned extension of Stoneridge Drive to El Charro Road, where it will connect to Jack London Boulevard that is being extended by Livermore. The 124-acre, county-owned Staples Ranch, which Haggerty allowed to be annexed into Pleasanton, also will need his and the county board's support as development occurs there.

Haggerty also helped Pleasanton acquire the old railroad corridor, which it is using for add downtown parking spaces and for a planned public trail.

A best part of the county district realignment is that Haggerty, Miley and the other three board supervisors agreed to keep Pleasanton together in a single district, not split as Haggerty first wanted to do. Supervisors also backed off early plans to separate Happy Valley, recognizing that as part of Pleasanton's "sphere of influence," it should be moved into District 4 along with Pleasanton.

Nate Miley was elected to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in November of 2000 and was sworn in on January 8, 2001. He was re-elected for a second term in 2004 and a third term in 2008. On May 24, he celebrated his 60th birthday and appointment again as president of the County Board with a gala event at the Claremont Hotel. He also serves on the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority, Local Area Formation Commission, Alameda County Congestion Management Agency, Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the Association of Bay Area Governments. A University of Maryland graduate, Miley is a single father of two children and has lived in Oakland for more than 20 years.

Miley and his chief of staff Seth Kaplan recently walked the streets of downtown Pleasanton. We hope the City Council and business community will hold a community-wide welcome this fall to introduce Miley and his staff to more of their Pleasanton constituents. ■

A best part of the county district realignment is that Haggerty, Miley and the other three board supervisors agreed to keep Pleasanton together in a single district, not split as Haggerty first wanted to do.



Visit [Town Square at PleasantonWeekly.com](http://TownSquare.atPleasantonWeekly.com)
to comment on the editorial.

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Community Pulse • Transitions

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE BULLETIN

Ruby Hill burglary nets \$70,000 in jewelry

More than \$70,000 in jewelry and other items was stolen in a burglary at a home in the 4200 block of Ruby Hill Drive, a police report said. The theft took place between 11:30 a.m. July 12 and 5:30 p.m. July 17, according to the report, which said a pry bar was used to enter a bedroom window.

Taken was a \$12,000 gold necklace, a \$10,000 Chanel ring, a \$10,000 pair of diamond and pearl earrings, a \$5,500 pearl necklace, a \$5,000 gold and pearl necklace, a \$5,000 ivory necklace, a \$5,000 woman's stainless steel and gold Rolex, a \$3,000 black onyx

necklace, \$3,000 diamond stud earrings, a \$2,500 moonstone and pearl bracelet, a \$2,500 citrine ring and bracelet, \$2,000 ivory bracelets, \$1,250 black onyx earrings, \$1,800 gold and ebony earrings, a \$1,000 ivory ring, a \$500 black snake pearl earrings, a \$180 gold necklace, a \$140 white pearl necklace, a passport valued at \$100, and a \$200 safe.

In other police reports:

A \$2,500 MacBook, \$700 iPad, \$150 in luggage, flash drives valued at \$80 and a \$70 iPad cover were stolen in a July 13 commercial burglary in the 7000 block of Koll Center Parkway. The theft occurred between 2:05 and 2:20 p.m., around the same time as another burglary near the same location, which netted a \$100 leather bag with papers and files. That theft took place between 1:15 p.m. and 2 p.m. The front door of that business had been left unlocked.

POLICE REPORT

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

July 13

Theft

- 7:41 a.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; identity theft
- 12:53 p.m. in the 5600 block of Stoneridge Drive; grand theft
- 2:31 p.m. in the 7000 block of Koll Center Parkway; grand theft, burglary
- 3:54 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; petty theft
- 7:52 p.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle; identity theft

Burglary

- 3:36 p.m. in the 7000 block of Koll Center Parkway; burglary

Auto burglary

- 10:01 a.m. in the 2800 block of Hopyard Road

July 14

Theft

- 9:05 a.m. in the 5000 block of Hopyard Road; identity theft, petty theft
- 10:56 a.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road; petty theft
- 12:03 p.m. in the 4900 block of Valley Avenue; petty theft
- 6:00 p.m. in the 4900 block of Hopyard Road; petty theft
- 6:47 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 8:19 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 10:25 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft, possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance

Assault with a deadly weapon

- 9:47 p.m. in the 600 block of Concord Place

Vandalism

- 10:01 a.m. in the 8000 block of Regency Drive
- 10:23 a.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive
- 8:36 p.m. in the 3700 block of Pimlico Drive

Paraphernalia possession

- 7:04 p.m. in the 3000 block of Bernal Avenue

July 15

Theft

- 7:54 a.m. in the 1800 block of

Palmer Drive; petty theft

- 8:29 a.m. in the 6500 block of Singletree Way; auto parts theft
- 1:47 p.m. in the 4400 block of Clovewood Lane; auto theft
- 2 p.m. in the 4300 block of Hacienda Drive; petty theft
- 2:50 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; theft

Burglary

- 8:55 p.m. in the 2600 block of Via Espada

Drug/alcohol violations

- 7:06 p.m. in the 8100 block of Arroyo Drive; possession of a controlled substance, paraphernalia possession
- 9:41 p.m. at the intersection of Del Valle Parkway and Hopyard Road; DUI
- 11:57 p.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Valley Trails Drive; DUI

July 16

Theft

- 1:31 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft, two counts

Battery

- 12:17 a.m. in the 5800 block of Owens Drive
- 1:03 a.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Santa Rita Road; battery, public drunkenness

Animal cruelty

- 7:02 p.m. at the intersection of W. Las Positas Boulevard and Apache Drive

Threats

- 11:06 a.m. in the 5400 block of Black Avenue

Public drunkenness

- 12:02 a.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road
- 12:48 a.m. in the 300 block of St. Mary Street
- 3:11 a.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and I-680
- 11:05 p.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road
- 11:47 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Valley Avenue

July 17

Petty theft

- 9:25 a.m. in the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Auto burglary

- 11:44 p.m. in the 3500 block of Stacey Court

Vandalism

- 6:39 a.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Stanley Boulevard

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:30 a.m. at the intersection of Sycamore Road and Amber Lane; driving with marijuana
- 1:43 a.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; DUI
- 5:30 p.m. in the 5500 block of Johnson Drive; paraphernalia possession

July 18

Theft

- 8:11 a.m. in the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue; auto theft
- 5:27 p.m. in the 4000 block of Sherry Court; petty theft
- 6:53 p.m. in the 2300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; identity theft

Auto burglary

- 7:59 a.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon road

Vandalism

- 10:38 a.m. on southbound I-680 north of Bernal Avenue
- 10:59 a.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Mohr Avenue
- 3:44 p.m. in the 3700 block of Reflections Drive
- 6:44 p.m. in the 3700 block of Vineyard Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:31 a.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive; under the influence of a controlled substance, paraphernalia possession
- 1:39 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road; public drunkenness
- 7:48 p.m. in the 5500 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard; public drunkenness

July 19

Theft

- 7:23 a.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; petty theft
- 7:27 a.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; identity theft
- 11:40 a.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive; identity theft
- 8:26 p.m. in the 260 block of Monarda Court; identity theft

Vandalism

- 10:39 a.m. in the 8000 block of Regency Drive

DUI

- 8 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue

BIRTHS

Molly Ann Weiss

Molly Ann Weiss was born at 7:14 a.m. June 1 to Matt and Susie Weiss and big brother Jack of Pleasanton. She weighed 8 pounds 1 ounce and was 19-3/4 inches long. Her grandparents are Pam and Pat Champion and Ann and Barry Weiss, all of Pleasanton.



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

Wednesday, July 27, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

• PDR-963, Sam Roham

Application for Design Review approval to construct a two-story, approximately 4,027 square foot custom home with an attached garage and an approximately 13 foot tall detached shade structure in the rear yard of a vacant site located on 6059 Sycamore Terrace.

Energy & Environment Committee

Wednesday, July 27, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
Operations Services, 3333 Busch Road

- California Youth Energy Services (CYES) Update
- Update on city projects / events
- Committee status update – 2011 focus areas

Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Committee

Monday, July 25, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.
Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

- Safe Routes to Transit Grant Application – proposed improvements on Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton Avenue, and at Pleasanton Ace Train Station
- Trails Project Status Report

General Information

Youth Master Plan Oversight Committee

The City of Pleasanton formed a Youth Master Plan Oversight Committee to oversee the implantation of the Youth Master Plan. The Master Plan was adopted by the Pleasanton City Council and Pleasanton Unified School District in August 2010. The implementation of the Youth Master Plan falls under the responsibility of the Community Services Department.

The Oversight Committee is made of up nine (9) members including; two (2) Youth Commissioners; one (1) Youth at large member in grade 6-12, one (1) non-profit youth organization member; one (1) business community representative and four (4) parent-at-large positions that have children who are either in pre-school, elementary, middle-school and high school. The Youth Master Plan Oversight Committee reports directly to the Youth Commission and meets 3-4 times a year to receive updates from staff, provide input and make recommendations to the Youth Commission regarding the implementation of the Youth Master Plan.

Committee Members will be appointed at the September 14, 2011 Youth Commission meeting

**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

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www.eddiepapas.com.

BARBECUE

Red Smoke Grill

4501 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 734-0307. Home of the Tri Tip and Blue, Red Smoke Grill was Voted Reader's Choice Best 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2010. Dine in or take out rotisserie chicken, ribs, prawns, salads and tri tip,

or pulled pork sandwiches. Relax with a beer or a bottle of wine. Visit www.redsmokegrill.com.

BREW PUB/ALEHOUSE

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

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Author Visits

RICK DEUTSCH Rick Deutsch will present his book, "One Best Hike: Yosemite's Half Dome," from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, July 23, at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. This is a free event. Call 846-8826 or visit www.townecenterbooks.com.

Class Reunions

AMADOR VALLEY 1981 CLASS REUNION Class of 1981's 30-year reunion will be July 29-31. To be on the mailing list or get more details about the reunion weekend, follow them on Facebook at Amador Valley 1981. Go Dons!

Classes

DROP IN COMPUTER TUTORING Need help with downloading e-books from the library to your e-reader, sending email attachments, social networking, and blogging or have general Internet questions? Class will be meeting from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays through Aug. 25 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Program is free and open to everyone. Call 931-3400, ext. 7.

MEDITATION Whether you are already meditating or feel it's time for you to begin, join this free interactive workshop series. In this informal setting, you will have the opportunity to discuss your meditations so that any difficulties or obstacles you are encountering can be overcome, allowing you to have a deeper, and more rewarding meditation. Classes are at 7 p.m. Monday, July 11, July 18, Aug. 1, Aug. 8 and Aug. 15 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. For more information, contact Mary Langevin at 830-2975.

Clubs

BOOST YOUR CAREER AT TOASTMASTERS Grow professionally at Chamber Chatters, a Toastmasters club that meets from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesdays at the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, 777 Peters Ave. Toastmasters International is a nonprofit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills. Visit www.chamberchatters.wordpress.com/.

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION DAR, Daughters of the American Revolution, Jose Maria Amador Chapter meets the first Saturday of the month. It is a social gathering and time to explore the history of our American roots. For meeting time and location, call Ann at 510-507-5509 or email anar-ciso@comcast.net.

EAST BAY EXECUTIVES ASSOCIATION The East Bay Executives Association is a non-profit organization for helping businesses network with other businesses. It meets at 7:15 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays monthly at Shari's, 3360 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley. Call 600-7342.

GNON (GIRLS NIGHT OUT NETWORKING) The group meets once a month after work at various locations throughout the Tri-Valley.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Enjoy Shakespeare in the Park — 'Cymbeline'

Pleasanton will host San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's Free Shakespeare in the Park production of the Bard's inventive fairytale, "Cymbeline," over the next three weekends beginning tomorrow. The performances will take place at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday evenings through Aug. 7, at Amador Valley Community Park, corner of Black Avenue and Santa Rita Road. This inventive fairytale of Princess Innogen's journey includes forbidden love, mistaken identities, banishment and a magic potion — perfect for the entire family. CITY OF PLEASANTON

The networking event runs from 5:30-8 p.m. Visit www.gnontrivalley.com for upcoming dates and locations or call 487-4748.

KIWANIS CLUB The Kiwanis Club meets at 11:45 a.m. Fridays at Vic's All Star Kitchen, 201 A Main St. For information, call 1-800-Kiwanis.

PLEASANTON NEWCOMERS CLUB This club is a great way for new and established residents to make new friends. It meets for coffee on the first Wednesday of every month and for lunch on the second Wednesday of every month. The group has activities like hiking, walking, Bunco and more. Visit www.pleasantonnewcomers.com or call Ruby M. at 462-6404.

ROTARY CLUB OF PLEASANTON The Rotary Club of Pleasanton since 1965 has been a leader in the community in helping make Pleasanton a great place to live. It has a luncheon meeting from 12:15-1:30 p.m., every Thursday, at Hap's Restaurant, 122 W. Neal St., Pleasanton. Cost for lunch is \$17. For information, visit www.PleasantonRotary.org.

ROTARY CLUB OF PLEASANTON NORTH Pleasanton North Rotary invites anyone interested in making a difference. The membership includes 65 professionals, business owners, executives, managers and community leaders. The club meets from 12:15-1:30 p.m. Fridays at the Hilton Hotel, 7050 Johnson Dr. Call 580-7947 or visit www.pnr-rotary.org.

SOCRATES CAFE The Socrates Cafe discusses modern philosophical questions using the Socratic method, on the first and third Tuesday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at Peets Coffee, corner of Valley Ave. and Hopyard Rd. No politics involved. Call 249-1865 or visit www.digiassist.com/SocratesCafePleasanton.html.

TRI-VALLEY EXECUTIVES' ASSOCIATION Established in 1984, the Tri-Valley Executives' Association helps business owners and managers develop resourceful relationships in a fun and progressive format. The club meets from 7-8:30 a.m. every Thursday at Vic's All Star Kitchen, 201-A Main St. Membership is open to businesses that are not in competition with a current member of the association. Call 736-4522 or visit www.trivall-exec.com.

VIRTUALLY SPEAKING TOASTMASTERS Virtually Speaking Toastmasters club meets from noon-1 p.m. every Thursday at Electrical Reliability Services, 6900 Koll Center Pkwy., Suite 415. Everyone is welcome to come see what a positive change Toastmasters can make in their confidence. Call 580-8660.

Concerts

ART UNDER THE OAKS Pleasanton Community Concert Band presents its Art Under the Oaks Concert from 2:30-4 p.m., Sunday, July 24, at Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Ln., Livermore. This concert is free, but donations are appreciated. Call 846-5897 or visit www.pleasanton-band.org.

CONCERTS IN THE PARK Fridays from 7-8:30 p.m. at Lions Wayside Park at the corner of First and Neal streets. Enjoy music from the '50s-'60s Rock 'n' Roll, Rockability, Surf by Dave Crimmen on July 22, then come back on July 29 for Flower Power Funk-Rock by Groovy Judy.

Events

ALVISO ADOBE TOURS Learn about what happened in the past on the site that is now Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Old Foothill Rd., from 3-5 p.m. Sundays through Aug. 28. You'll also hear about opportunities to be part of the volunteer team. Call 931-3485 or visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

CALIFORNIA GLOBAL VILLAGE International Culture Exchange Group will host a new summer family event, California Global Village, from 2-11 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-midnight, Friday-Sunday, July 29-Aug. 14, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. The village is a one-of-a-kind event with one-part Disneyland, one-part Olympics opening ceremony and one-part multi-cultural fair. Tickets are \$10; \$8 for seniors; \$6 for youth ages 5-12; and children under 4 are free. Parking is \$8.

FIRST WEDNESDAY'S STREET FAIR: DOG DAYS OF SUMMER First Wednesday will take place from 6-9 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 3, in downtown Pleasanton. Public Eye will be performing at the Beer & Wine Garden Stage; The Crisis will be at the North Stage. The Pooch Parade is a fundraiser for Guide Dog for the Blind club. Register at

5:30 p.m. at Lions Wayside Park, corner of First and Neal Streets. Entry fee is \$10 per category. For more information, contact the Pleasanton Downtown Association at 484-2199 or email events@pleas-antondowntown.net.

PARIS PORTRAITS Meet Harriet Lane Levy and let her guide you into the world of Matisse, Gertrude Stein, Picasso, and others! Featuring actress Laura Sheppard in the role of Harriet Lane Levy. The performance is at 2 p.m., Sunday, July 31, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. There will be no late seating for this free 40-minute dramatic performance. Call 931-3405.

PEACEFUL WAR PROTEST Pleasantonians 4 Peace has an ongoing peaceful war protest from 5 to 6 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month, at First and Neal streets. Contact Cathe Norman at 462-7495; Matt Sullivan at mjs7882@gmail.com; or kdowd-ing@pacbell.net. Visit www.Pleasantonians4Peace.org.

TRI-VALLEY CAL ALUMNI BBQ Join in an afternoon of Cal spirit, camaraderie and fun with local Alumni and to welcome new Cal students and their families, from 12:30-3 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 6, at Highland Oaks Rec Center, 4530 Sandalwood Dr. Cost \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Lunch catered by Red Smoke Grill. Call 730-3862.

Exhibits

"THE OUTSIDERS" PLEIN AIR PAINTING Displaying the works of Nikki Basch-Davis, Ray Jackson, Judy Molyneux, William Rushton, Randal Sexton, Jerry Turner and the late Pam Glover. The exhibit will be on display from noon-5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays from July 20 through Aug. 27 at the Harrington Gallery, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Suggested donation \$2. Call 931-4849 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

Film

'CATS AND DOGS: REVENGE OF KITTY GALORE' Residents are invited to enjoy free movies during six Thursday evenings this summer at the Amador Valley Community Park, 4301 Black Ave., compliments of the city of Pleasanton. All films will be shown at dusk. The movie fea-

tured on July 28 will be "Cats and Dogs: Revenge of Kitty Galore," featuring voices of Chris O'Donnell and 30 Rocke's Jack McBrayer. Seating will be cordoned off in sections with blanket seating in the front, low-back beach chairs in the center and camp chairs and other higher positioned seating in the rear to accommodate for the best viewing. Do not place blankets or chairs on the lawn area prior to 10 a.m.

'FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO' This award winning, incredibly powerful documentary confronts with whimsy and hellfire, the clash between religion and homosexuality, prescribing how religions can redefine and accept it. Event is open to everyone, potluck meet and greet starts at 6:30 p.m., while a discussion follows the film. The event is from 6:30-9:30 p.m., Saturday, July 23, at IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. Suggested donation \$3. Call 462-3459 or email flickknight@gmail.com.

Fundraisers

RELAY FOR LIFE Come out and cheer on your favorite team this weekend. The fundraiser starts at 10 a.m., Saturday, July 23, and ends at 10 a.m., Sunday, July 24 at Pleasanton Middle School, 5000 Case Ave. Bring your family and have some fun.

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE FOR FOSTER KIDS In an effort to help California foster kids feel prepared and confident this school year, Sleep Train is hosting its annual School Supply Drive for Foster Kids. Donations of new school supplies can be made at any Sleep Train store now through Sept. 5. Visit www.sleep-train.com. Sleep Train.

VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY CALENDAR CONTEST Make your pet a superstar through the Valley Humane Society 2012 Calendar Contest, which is happening now. Cost is \$15. Contest runs through July 22. Call 426-8656, ext. 16, or visit www.valleyhumane.org.

Health

YOGA Stretch, relax and rejuvenate every Saturday from 9-10:30 a.m. at Art of Living Center, 6690 Amador Plaza Road, Suite 13, Dublin. Yoga and meditation. Become one with your mind, body and spirit. Class is free. Visit www.artofliving.org/sanramon.

Kids & Teens

HIDDEN WORLDS Come out and visit the little seen worlds, the macroscopic and the microscopic universes, from 2-5 p.m., Saturday, July 23, at Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Old Foothill Road. After this program, your world may never look the same again. Cost \$3 for residents and \$5 for non-residents. Ages 5 and up. Call 931-3485.

PANDAMANIA VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL St. Clare's Episcopal Church invites children to "Pandamania: Where God is wild about you!" The program is from 9 a.m.-noon Aug. 1 through Aug. 5 at St. Clare's, 3350 Hopyard Rd. For ages 4 years

old through fifth grade. Kids will participate in games, singing, dancing, crafts and Bible-learning activities and watch the adventures of Chadder the Chipmunk. Cost \$50. Call 462-4802 or visit www.stclare-spleasanton.org.

Lectures/ Workshops

MISSING COUSINS - HOW TO FIND THEM The goals of genealogy include determining who your ancestors were and learning more about them. This free lecture is at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 9, at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Ct. Ed Mason, who has been president and held other offices with the San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society, will talk about uncovering and meeting many second, third and fourth cousins who have provided much information on his family. For additional information, contact Richard Finn at program@l-ags.org.

Live Music

'ABCs OF NORTH INDIAN CLASSICAL VOCAL MUSIC' A historical overview of the North Indian classical vocal style with an introduction to taals, swars and other musical elements, instrumental demonstrations of the tabla, tanpura and more, plus a live vocal performance by Sushma Mathur. The performance is at 2 p.m., Saturday, July 23, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call 931-3405.

NEELY'S RHYTHM ACES Dan Neely, vocalist Carla Normand, and Neely's Rhythm Aces, the sextet from the Royal Society Jazz Orchestra of San Francisco and renowned for its Hot Syncopated 1920s jazz, 1930s and 1940s swing blues, Dixieland, vintage jazz and traditional jazz, will perform at 2 p.m., Sunday, July 24, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. The concert is free. Call 931-3405.

Miscellaneous

ADOPT A NEW BEST FRIEND Tri-Valley Animal Rescue (TVAR) offers wonderful animals for adoption every Saturday and Sunday, excluding most holidays. On Saturdays, from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., dogs and cats are available. For dates, times and other information, call TVAR at 803-7043 or visit www.tvlar.org.

On Stage

'A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM' Acclaimed all-female Shakespeare troupe, Woman's Will, brings a '60s-style "A Midsummer Night's Dream" to a new location, Amador Valley Community Park, 4301 Black Ave., at 4:30 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 14. "Dream" is about magic, love and family - the family we are born into and the family we create. The audience is invited to bring picnics, blankets and refreshments to the park. Admission is free; donations will be accepted. Call 931-5340.

'THE SOUND OF MUSIC' Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre is presenting "The Sounds of Music," the final collaboration between Rodgers

& Hammerstein, which was destined to become the world's most beloved musical. Performances are 8 p.m. on Friday/Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays, now through Aug. 7, at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Call 373-6800 or visit www.trivalleyrep.org.

Political Notes

FROM HIROSHIMA TO FUKUSHIMA TO LIVERMORE Tri-Valley Cares is presenting "Confronting the Two-Headed Dragon of Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear Power." The meeting is from 6-9 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 6, at William Payne Park, Vasco and Patterson Pass roads in Livermore. Guest speakers, music, food and live video with atomic bomb survivors in Japan. Call 443-7148 or visit www.trivalleycares.org.

Spiritual

COMMUNITY HU SONG Come to a non-denominational gathering to sing the word HU, a Love Song to God. Singing HU can bring one greater happiness, love and understanding. The half-hour meeting will be held on from 7:30-8 p.m., Wednesday, July 27, at Heritage Estates, 900 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. Refreshments and conversation will follow the meeting. Visit www.eckankar.org/hu.html.

Sports

MORNING GROUP RIDE - CYCLING A group ride starts at 8:30 a.m. every Saturday from Cycle Pros Bike Shop, 728 Main St., meeting in the parking lot. The ride breaks into groups based on skill and distance. The regular ride usually covers 25-40 miles at speeds of 14-18 mph. The long ride covers 35-60 miles at a brisker pace. Routes vary each week. On Sundays mornings, there is a group ride for everyone, same time, same place, broken down into levels based on ability and distance. Call 400-4336 or visit www.thecyclepros.com.

Support Groups

BEYOND TREATMENT BREAST CANCER This group provides a safe place to express and share thoughts, concerns and experiences of living with the uncertainty, the physical effects and problems related to intimacy, marriage, reproduction and employment. The group meets from 6-8 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month at ValleyCare Health Library & Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd, Suite #270. The group is facilitated by Mary Prishtina, RN, and Estee Goren, MFT. Call 399-1177.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP Caring for a loved one is challenging physically and emotionally. Join this support group to explore resources and generate problem-solving ideas from 1-3 p.m., on the second Monday of every month, and from 7-9 p.m. at 5353 Sunol Blvd. Get the support you deserve at the Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley. Call 931-5389.

CLUTTERLESS SELF HELP GROUP Overwhelmed by clutter? Learn how to deal with it by attending



TERRI MOLINA

Phantom team finishes 2nd in Summer Classic

The Pleasanton Phantom 12C summer travel softball team finished second in the Pleasanton Summer Classic Tournament on the weekend of July 8. Team members are (front, l-r) Kelsey Congdon, Kelly Jefferies, Lilly Ryan, Lauren Jepsen, (middle) Emily Crimi, Taylor Congdon, Maya Nozaka, Nicole Riordan, (back) Coach Rick Congdon, Meghan Pickett, Lauren HoTseung, Michelle Wood, Emily Trinidad, Courtney Dinelli, Coach Shane Pickett and Coach Kristen HoTseung.

this support group, which meets from 7-8:30 p.m. every Monday at St. Mary & St. John Coptic Orthodox Church, 4300 Mirador Dr., Rm. 7. Call 200-1943 or visit www.clutterless.org.

DEPRESSION & BIPOLAR Depression Bipolar Support Alliance, DBSA, is a support group for people who live with depression, bipolar and other disabilities. They can help each other navigate the ups and downs of life! A place where you can be yourself and feel safe. The group meets from 7:15-8:45 p.m. every Wednesday, at St. Claire's Episcopal Church, Classroom 1, 3350 Hopyard Rd., although it is not affiliated with the church. No charge for meetings. Call 462-6415 or visit www.dbsalliance.org/pleasanton.

EAST BAY ESSENTIAL TREMOR SUPPORT GROUP If you have recently been diagnosed with ET or would like to learn more about this common movement disorder in a safe and supportive environment, please join us from 10 a.m.-noon on the third Saturday of each month, in the Blackhawk A and B conference rooms at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, 6001 Norris Canyon Rd. Call 487-5706 or e-mail galexplor@comcast.net.

HOPE HOSPICE GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS Hope Hospice offers ongoing grief support services for adults, teens and children including a Transitions Support Group; Tragic Loss Support Group; individualized grief support; caregiver support; on-site support for schools; youth organizations and the workplace; community support services; a resource library; and more. For more information or to register, call 829-8770.

INTEGRATED MIND AND BODY GRIEF SUPPORT This comprehensive set of grief support services is offered

at the Hope Hospice Grief Support Center from 5-7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month at Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark Ave., Ste. 100., Dublin. Services include various forms of gentle touch as well as guided imagery, meditation and stress management. Restore the energy depleted by grief. No charge. Call 829-8770 or visit www.hopehospice.com.

PLEASANTON MILITARY FAMILIES SUPPORT GROUP Formed in 2003 this group provides support and comfort to the Pleasanton families whose loved ones are deployed in the combat zones of Afghanistan and Iraq. The group has monthly meetings and other events such as "pack outs" of comfort and care items for deployed members of the armed forces. The group also sponsors the Yellow Streamer program on Main Street where streamers are displayed with the name, rank and branch of service of Pleasanton military personnel. Learn more at www.pleasantonmilitaryfamilies.org.

TRI-VALLEY PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP If you, a loved one or friend has PD, join the group as they learn about the disease, advise each other on strategies for coping, share worries and seek answers to questions. They meet from 10 a.m.-noon on the second Saturday of the month at Senior Citizen Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call 831-9940.

WIDOWS/WIDOWERS GRIEF RECOVERY Have you or someone you know experienced the death of a spouse recently or within the last few years? Sharing our experiences during this 10-week class is helpful to our healing process. Class is from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays now through Sept. 14 at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Pkwy. Find hope, support and successful ways to process this significant life event. Cost \$10 for the

handbook. Preregistration required. Call 833-9013.

Volunteering

AMERICAN RED CROSS PUBLIC BLOOD DRIVE At the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, July 30, at 6100 Paseo Santa Cruz. Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or go to redcrossblood.org (Sponsor Code: INTERFAITHCOMMUNITY) to schedule an appointment.

GARDEN CHORES AT ALVISO ADOBE Be a steward of the land as you plant, water and weed the garden at Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Old Foothill Road, from 10-11 a.m., Saturdays, now through Aug. 27. Ages 5 and up. No charge. Call 931-3485 or visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/. Native plants help native animals find food and shelter; stop by and sift the soil through your fingers

TRI VALLEY SUPPORT GROUP FOR FIBROMYALGIA, LUPUS & ALL FORMS OF ARTHRITIS Tri Valley Support Group for Fibromyalgia, Lupus and all forms of Arthritis meets from 6:30-8 p.m. the fourth Monday of the month at Tri Valley Support, 3115 Finnian Way, Dublin. They are in need of volunteers to help. Call 875-0960.

VOLUNTEER AT THE FIREHOUSE ARTS CENTER Join a fantastic team of volunteers for an inspiring experience in the arts! Positions include Theater Usher, Will Call Window and Gallery Desk. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old (theater) or 21 years old (gallery). Interested volunteers must attend an orientation scheduled from 7-8 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 2, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Call 931-4844 or visit www.helplendahand.org.

Old favorites, new favorites make the grade

READERS CHOICE 2011



The Wine Steward at 641 Main St. was voted Best Wine Store. Owners Jim Denham and Judy Gluck showcase an assortment of their best wines from both local vineyards and grapes grown abroad.

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI AND
GLENN WOHLTANN

PHOTOS BY PRIYANKA MODY

The Pleasanton Weekly Readers Choice 2011 balloting ended recently, and the 28,328 votes have been tabulated. How exciting it was to see the opinions pour in, as folks pondered their favorites and shared them with us.

From mortgage companies to ice cream to computer repair to hamburgers to acupuncture, you went online to give us your opinions. Many of the winners are on Main Street but other parts of town are popular with our readers, too, reminding us what a diverse, sizeable city we are.

Below are the first — and second-place winners — our congratulations to all, and our thanks to everyone who participated.

AROUND TOWN

Best Photographer — Bella Luna Studios. Another year, another win for Bella Luna, making 2011 the fourth straight win for Christina Gray's studio. Check out the page of testimonials. Second Place is Images by Lori, which has a great blog.

Best Mortgage Professional — Diversified Mortgage Group. Diversified has been assisting Northern California homeowners and buyers for more than 20 years, and has built its business from referrals. Second Place is Brian LeBars, Vintage Mortgage Group.

Best Real Estate Office — Keller Williams. A real estate company with a culture that promotes fairness. Ask about WI4C2TS. Second Place is Alain Pinel, serving the Bay Area exclusively for more than 20 years.

Best Mortgage Company — Landmark Mortgage Group. Trustworthy, goal driven and team players. Second Place is Vintage Mortgage Group, established in 1992 by Laura Raney.

Best Auto Dealership — Lexus of Pleasanton. With a passion for providing customers with a world-class ownership experience. Second Place is Dublin Honda, offering a warm family atmosphere for every customer.

Best Senior Living Facility — Pleasanton Gardens Senior Living. Very affordable housing for

senior citizens stemming from a partnership of four churches: St. Augustine's Catholic Church, Lynewood Methodist, First Baptist and Centerpointe Church. Second Place is The Parkview, which brings a fresh approach to assisted living and memory care in Pleasanton.

Best Computer Repair — Tri-Valley PC Medic. Whether your computer has a dreaded virus or just needs fine-tuning for better performance, PC Medic is the place to go. Owner Ken Cook makes house calls and can get your computer and network running smoothly. Second Place is Pleasanton Computer Repair, which can repair a PC via a remote desktop tool.

Best Dry Cleaners — VIP Cleaners. Offering delivery of top quality dry cleaning, laundry, alterations, and shoe repair, this is VIP's sixth straight Readers Choice win. Second Place is Hacienda Cleaners, promising to go above and beyond the level of service offered by others.

Best Financial Planner — Wealth Management Associates. A team of professionals that lets you focus on the more important stuff, while



Self-portrait with family (from left):
Lauren, Lonnie, Ethan, and Christina Gray.

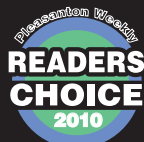
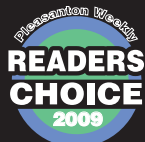
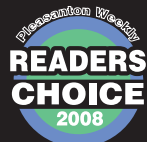
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READERS CHOICE 2011



With a bustling bar and tasty entrées, Eddie Papa's, 4889 Hopyard Road, was voted as both the Best American Food Restaurant and Best Meal Under \$20.

they focus on creating, monitoring and evaluating your financial portfolio. Second Place is Charles Schwab, offering personal relationships, fact-based guidance and value.

EPICURE

Best Atmosphere — Barone's. Home of Thursday night Music Under the Stars, live music Friday and Saturday nights, and outdoor patio dining. Second Place is Blue Agave Club, with live mariachi music and enough tequilas to float a small boat.

Best Romantic Restaurant — Barone's. Offering "the most romantic continental cuisine restaurant" and working hard at making it true. Great atmosphere, great food and live music under the stars make for a romantic mix and its organic spice garden adds to the flavor. Second Place is Hap's Original Steaks & Seafood. Nothing says love like a big ol' steak.

Best Outdoor Dining — Blue Agave Club. Classy but low-key outdoor dining, complete with live music outdoors twice a week. Second Place is The Hop Yard Ale-



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READERS CHOICE 2011



With seating indoors at the bar, booths or tables plus outside on the patio, Gay Nineties Pizza on the corner of Main Street and Abbie was voted Best Pizza in the area.

house & Grill, with casual outdoor dining and a huge variety of beer.

Best Main Street Restaurant — Blue Agave Club. See a trend here? Our readers clearly love Blue Agave. Maybe it's all that tequila. Second Place is Oasis Grille, downtown Pleasanton's exotic dining destination.

Best Margarita — Blue Agave Club. With 51 different types of margaritas, by the glass or to share by the liter, it's not hard to figure out why Blue Agave consistently wins this category. Second Place is Alberto's Cantina. Having 18 margarita combinations would be a sure winner anywhere else.

Best Mexican Restaurant — Casa Orozco. Coming up on 30 years in business and founded on a strong family bond, a hard work ethic and Mama's recipes. Second Place is Blue Agave Club where Alexandro Garcia blends traditional Mexican flavors with California-style cooking.

Best Chinese Restaurant — Chinese Szechuan. From the honey walnut prawns to the crispy ginger chicken to sizzling rice soup, this food is so good that some folks drive 40 miles for it. Second Place is P.F. Chang's China Bistro. With a menu that includes vegetarian and gluten free choices, P.F. Chang's proves chain restaurants can be good.

Best American Food Restaurant — Eddie Papa's American Hangout. Family friendly, fun filled American style bar and grill on Hopyard Road near Stoneridge, where American food means more than burgers and fries. Second Place is the Hop Yard Alehouse & Grill. Build your own burger or choose from a menu that includes beef brisket, pulled pork and a salmon BLT.

Best Meal Under \$20 — Eddie Papa's American Hangout. Entrees like Vermont apple pork chops, Kona braised short ribs, Harlem fried chicken and waffles, and Alaskan fish and chips, each for less than 20 bucks. Second Place is Me & My Friend's Café, which serves breakfast and lunch, specializing in healthy cooking with generous portions.

Best Pizza — Gay Nineties Pizza & Pasta. Pizzas made from scratch

and sourdough specialty pizzas. According to local legend, there's even a ghost on the premises of this place, one of Pleasanton's first commercial buildings. Second Place is Amici's Pizza, baking pizzas in brick ovens so the crust comes out crisp and darker than the typical American pizza.

Best Steakhouse — Hap's Original Steaks & Seafood. Serving certified Angus steaks that have been dry aged for 28 days. Don't be surprised if one of the three owners or the chef stops by your table just to make sure everything's perfect. Second Place is McNamara's Steak & Chop House, with hand selected Midwestern corn-fed Angus beef.

Best Burrito — High Tech Burrito. Combining the finest, freshest ingredients around with a menu loaded with choices, High Tech Burrito gives you the ultimate burrito experience. Second Place is Casa Orozco, rated by burritophiles as among the best in the East Bay.

Best Burger — In-N-Out Burger. There's a reason the line's always long here. A Double-Double with cheese (and a chocolate shake) from In-N-Out Burger: inexpensive, quick and delicious. Second Place was Bob's Giant Burger, making giant juicy burgers since the 1960s.

Best French Fries — In-N-Out Burger. No frozen fries here. You can watch them get made from fresh potatoes while you drive through or wait to pick up your order. Get two orders — one for the drive home. Second Place is McDonald's. There's something almost addictive in the oil McDonald's uses that keeps people coming back.

Best Breakfast — Jim's Country Style Restaurant. You know a place is good when the local police and random strangers direct people there. Some say it's the best spot for breakfast in a 50-mile radius.

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Meals include four corn muffins and two large sides.

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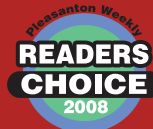
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READERS CHOICE 2011



JEB BING

Concerts in the Park were named, once again, as the Best Place for Live Music. These free Friday evening events are the perfect start to any weekend.

Second Place is Dean's Café on Main Street. Dean's must be doing something right to make it into a monologue by a late-night talk show host.

Best Thai Restaurant — Little Home Thai. The food here is amazingly good and inexpensive. Try the Tom Yum Koong, a hot and sour soup with prawns, mushrooms and lemon grass, served in a heated container and a glass of coconut milk. Second Place is Pleasanton House Thai Cuisine, another Pleasanton favorite with great prices and great food.

Best Ice Cream/Yogurt Shop — Meadowlark Dairy. You have to love a drive-through dairy in the first place, and the servings are bigger than the usual small/medium/large. Soft-serve ice cream at its best. Second Place is Cold Stone Creamery. For 23 years, Cold Stone has been making fresh ice cream, blended on a frozen granite stone.

Best Bakery — Noland's Cake Shop. Find the right cake for your special occasion from wedding cakes to kids cakes, with a great photo gallery of cakes created to look like everything from wine bottles to hamburgers. Second Place

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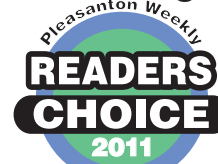
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READERS CHOICE 2011



Decorating the interior walls and bar shelves, a large selection of beers is what makes The HopYard Alehouse and Grill the Best Place for an After Work Drink. Right: Customers may opt for the popular outdoor patio seating to enjoy food and drinks at the HopYard Alehouse and Grill, located at 3015 Hopyard Road.

is Primrose Bakery, with wedding cakes, tarts, cookies and pastries done European style.

Best Mediterranean/Middle Eastern Restaurant — Oasis Grille.

Have a glass of wine in the rose garden, tour the Mediterranean with a sampler then dig in to a rack of lamb or Moroccan stuffed chicken. Second Place is Agora Bistro, with Mediterranean cuisine from Greece, Turkey and Italian Provincial.

Best Coffee House — Peet's Coffee & Tea.

That venti soy double mocha frappuccino and the growth of coffee culture in America in general can be traced directly to Peet's. Alfred Peet mentored generations of specialty coffee entrepreneurs, including the cofounder of Starbucks. Second Place is Starbucks. What started as a coffee bar is now a worldwide phenomenon, with specialty beverages, food, CDs and yes, even an iPod app.

Best Barbeque — Red Smoke Grill.

All-natural chicken, choice tri-tip, and tender pork, with tri-tip and chicken cooked over red oak, and items such as the Red Smoke Original Tri-Tip Sandwich with fresh hand-cut salsa and a side item of Pinquinto Beans. Just writing about this makes us hungry. Second Place is Dickey's BBQ. We're embarrassed to admit we've



eaten the whole picnic pack by ourselves. Great food and some funny videos, too.

Best Take-Out Restaurant — Red Smoke Grill.

We are so going there for a tri-tip takeout lunch with a side of chicken tortilla soup, just to make our coworkers jealous. Second Place is In-N-Out Burger, so good those Double Doubles never actually make it home.

Best Sushi/Japanese Restaurant — Sozo Sushi.

With specialty rolls like the dragon roll, dancing ebi and the disco roll, this is anything but the usual raw fish and rice. Second Place is Sato Japanese Cuisine, Pleasanton's first Japanese restaurant opened in 1983 and designed to look like a Japanese home.

Best Place for a Business Lunch — Stacey's Café.

Stacey's has been winning in this category since 2007 with real linen napkins, great décor and a fun menu. Second Place is Red Smoke Grill: good food and a

casual atmosphere for an informal business lunch.

Best Italian Restaurant — Strizzi's.

From an Italian deli and shoe shop in Greensburg, Pa., to Pleasanton's best, Strizzi's is an American success story with great pasta and a wood-fired grill. Second Place is Fontina Ristorante, with great Italian food, beautiful presentations and a vegetarian menu, too.

Best Seafood Restaurant — Strizzi's.

Fresh fish dishes like wood-grilled salmon and an amazing seafood fettuccine. Second Place is Hap's Original Steaks & Seafood. Hap's makes great steaks, but remember, it's called steaks and seafood for a reason.

Best Vegetarian Cuisine — Sweet Tomatoes.

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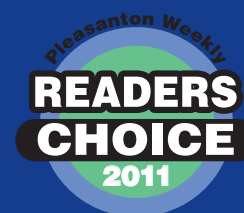
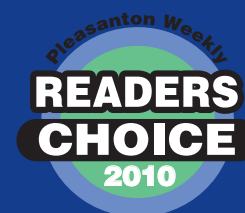
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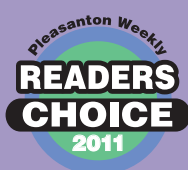
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READERS CHOICE 2011



Get in shape and look great after working out with Gerry and Traci Saba at Zen Pilates & Fitness, 3059 Hopyard Road. Readers chose this local gym for Best Personal Trainer.

get the pastas, soups and focaccia breads. Second Place is Oasis Grille, with vegetarian specialties in an upscale setting.

Best Winery — Wente Vineyards.

Wente is the country's oldest, continuously operated family-owned winery, and the winery recently partnered with the Food Network to create a line of wines to be paired with foods. Don't forget the summer concert series! Sec-

ond Place is Mitchell Katz Winery, the hometown favorite. As a teen, Mitchell spent summers helping his grandfather make wines and decided to carry on the tradition.

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Best Manicure & Pedicure — Bollinger Nail Salon. Now's the weather to show off those perfectly polished toenails! Manis and pedis are relaxing treatments that you

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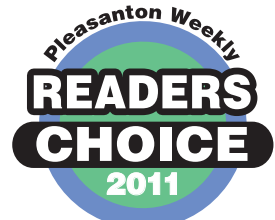
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Best Place for Dance
Lessons in Pleasanton!



Owner Dirk Christiansen and Jan Mahood and Shelley Barry display Studio Seven Arts' collection of paintings, part of the current exhibition featuring artist James Leonard. Located at 400 Main St., it was voted Best Art Gallery. Right: Landscape paintings, mixed media sculptures, hand crafted jewelry and other fine arts can be viewed and purchased at Studio Seven Arts.



continue to enjoy with every glance at your hands and feet. Nail shops abound in Pleasanton, and Top Ten Nails came in second.

Best Health Club — ClubSport. With its state-of-the-art fitness center, kids' activities, and indoor and outdoor tennis courts, it's easy to see why ClubSport again garnered the most votes. Second Place was 24 Hour Fitness, which recently moved into new digs on Willow Road.

Best Hair Salon for Men — Cosmo's. Men love this place and we don't know whether it's the reasonable price (\$10) or the miniskirted stylists/barbers who make for a fun atmosphere. What's not to like? Dion's Salon, located at Club Sport, won Second Place.

Best Yoga/Pilates — Downtown Yoga. It's physical, it's mental, it makes for flexibility and overall well being as yoga helps to increase the flow of energy. If you haven't discovered the joys of yoga, check out this studio. Second Place was Zen Pilate's & Fitness.

Best Acupuncture — Eastern Medical. Don't go through life with discomfort: acupuncture and acupressure are respected around the world as safe and natural medicine, which work by returning your body to its natural state of balance to let it heal itself. Second Place was Body in Balance.

Best Hair Salon for Women — Fusion 3 Salon. This salon on Main Street aims not just for quality but for fun, so patrons can relax amid laughter and leave feeling upbeat as well as looking beautiful. The Image Salon and Day Spa on West Las Positas was second in the running.

Best Massage — Heavenly Day Spa. Hmmm, heavenly. That about sums up our requirements for a massage, whether it be Swedish or warm stone or any of the other specialties. Second Place was Healthy Necessity Massage — what a great concept: a massage as a necessity.

Best Martial Arts Studio — Jue's Taekwon-Do. Master Gordon Jue, a seventh-degree black belt, is "dedicated to teaching life skills through martial arts" at his studio on First Street. Second Place Crispim BJJ Barra Brothers provides Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu training.

Best Medical Spa — MD Laser Spa. This establishment offers everything from laser to cosmetic surgery. One fan described Dr. Robert Gray's work as "subtle yet superb." Renu Laser Spa came in second.

Best Personal Trainer — Zen Pilates & Fitness. Guess our readers like all the trainers at this studio, where classes are taught all day in groups of one to four people, with each class incorporating yoga, Pilates, flexibility, strength, balance, cardiovascular and core stability. Second place was trainer Daniel Elias, who is at Crispim BJJ Barra Brothers.

HOME & VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

Best Tire Store/Service Center — Big O Tires. Think about it: is any part of your car really more important than your tires? Big O off Stanley Boulevard was No. 1, and Second Place is America's Tires in Dublin.

Best Home Contractor — Borg Fence. Don't overlook what a new fence, ornamental gate, deck or arbor might do to improve your home. Our readers love working with Borg Fence. Second Place was KDC Kitchens, a full-service kitchen and bath design and remodeling company.

Best Auto Detail — California Shine Co. With the price of cars, they are an investment so it's best to keep them bright and shiny on the outside as well as maintained under the hood, and our readers love this place, on Johnson Avenue. Second Place is West Coast Dents on Santa Rita Road.

Best Carpet/Flooring Store — Diablo Flooring. We walk, run and slide on them as well as make them support heavy furniture. Young children get down and play on them. Pets sleep on them. Choose your flooring carefully! And let the folks at this showroom on Sunol Boulevard help. S&G Carpet on Johnson came in second.

Best Place to Buy a Spa or Hot Tub — Dublin Spa Center. Luxury or necessity? Depends how much you work out your muscles. Also, hot tubs are sometimes the only way to stop being cold on a winter's night. Second Place is Pleasanton Pool Center.

READERS CHOICE 2011

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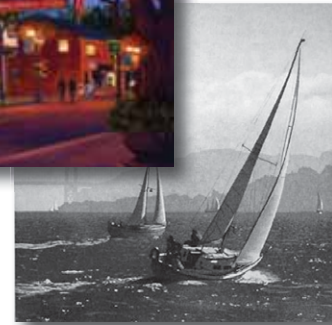
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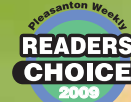
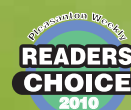
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Best Carpet Cleaners — Glover's Steam Cleaning. Each time you get your carpets cleaned, we're sure you say: "From now on we'll take off our shoes at the door!" Good luck. To get their carpets looking new, our readers choose Glover's; Second Place is Tiger Carpet Cleaning.

Best Car Wash — Pleasanton Hand Car Wash. A gentle but effective car wash by hands that aren't yours — sweet — using soft lamb's wool mitts instead of brushes or cloths that could damage your car's finish. And it usually only takes about 20 minutes. Second Place is Dublin Auto Wash.

Best Foreign Car Repair — Precision Auto Repair. Its mechanics are trained to maintain and repair all makes and models of Acura, Honda, Lexus, Toyota and Hybrids, using factory parts and fluids. Second Place is SAS German Auto, which services Mercedes Benz, BMW, Porsche, Audi and Volkswagen. What does this tell us about Pleasanton's vehicles?

Best Domestic Car Repair — Scott's Automotive and Light Truck Repair. Chevys, Fords and other American cars are still on the streets of Pleasanton, too. One patron says, "We've been using this shop for years and I would not go anywhere else at this point." Second Place is Harry's Auto Repair.

Best Roofer — Sierra Roofing Systems. You might not feel the need for a new roof now but look ahead to winter. Let Sierra check out your roof before it begins to leak. Folks also like Second Place winner, Tri-City Roofing.

Best Plumber — Valley Plumbing. Valley not only can repair leaks, gas lines and backflows, it also does bath remodels and more. Visit its showroom in a historic building on Rose Street downtown to get ideas. Second Place is Mr. Rooter Plumbing of the Tri-Valley.

Best Nursery/Garden Center — Western Garden Nursery. This full service garden center offers a wide selection of top quality plants from premium growers, garden products and organic fertilizers and pest controls. Plus it has fountains and garden accessories to help you create your own little Eden. Second Place is Armstrong Garden Center in Dublin.

Best Hardware Store — Workbench True Value Hardware. From tools to garden accessories, this place has it all — plus old-timers to help you find that little gizmo. Check out its website for the bargains of the month. Second-Place Richert Lumber is a great place to visit for home improvement projects as well as hardware.

KIDS & PETS

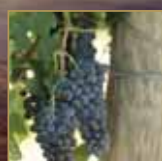
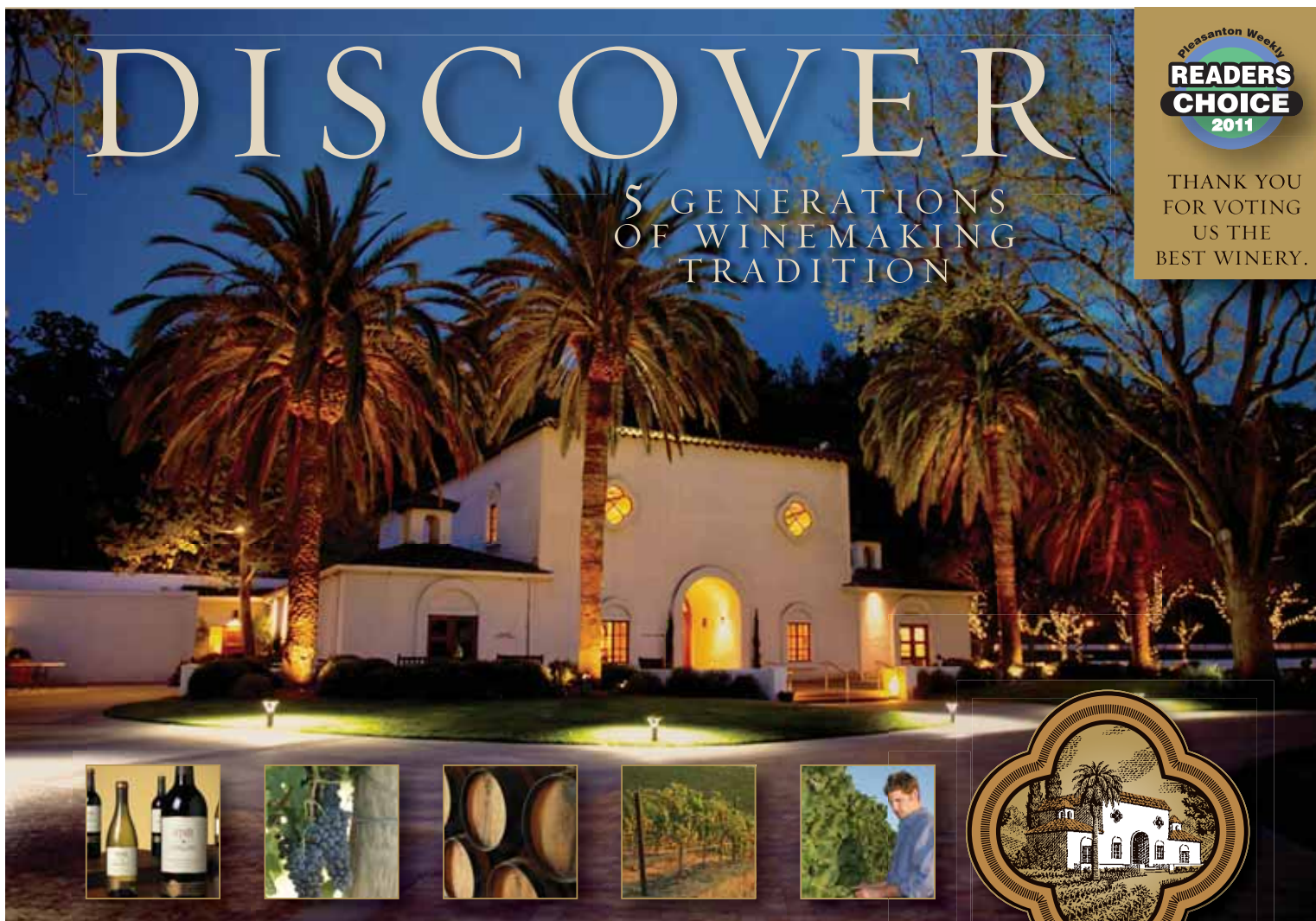
Best Toy Store — Golden Apple Learning Center. This unique store for parents and teachers offers fun games and toys for every age. It offers frequent events so drop in to get acquainted. Second Place is Heroes & Villains Comics on Main

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Teeming with stationery, jewelry and other trinkets and treasures, the Berry Patch at 350 Main St. was chosen the Best Place to Buy A Gift. Right: Shoppers on Main Street, such as Suzanne, peruse hand-painted signs displayed outside Berry Patch, voted as Best Place to buy a Gift.

Street, which also features games and collectibles.

Best Place for Dance Lessons — Jazz N Taps. This makes the fifth year for Jazz N Taps to receive this honor. The studio on Quarry Lane also offers ballet, hip-hop and modern dance. Second Place is Spark Dance Studio, which also offers a variety.

Best Pet Store — Murphy's Paw. "It's a dog's world," say Melanie and Mike Sadek, owners of this shop on Main Street; "we humans just happen to live in it." And, yes, there is a Murphy, who joined the Sadek household in 2002, and was the inspiration for a special place to take dogs for toys, treats and accessories. Our readers also like Pet Food Express, which won Second Place.

Best Place to Walk, Jog or Bike — Pleasanton Ridge. Stretch your legs and enjoy nature on the Ridge. The loop is 20 miles but it's only two miles to the top for some great views. Second Place is Sports Park, a complex off Hopyard Road that has formal fields, skateboard ramps and great places to play and picnic.

Best Veterinarian — Pleasanton Veterinary Hospital. Its mission is to help companion animals — including dogs, cats, pocket pets and reptiles — live longer, healthier and happier lives. Our readers say: Mission accomplished. They also like Town & Country Veterinary Hospital, which came in second.

Best Pet Groomer — Shear Magic. This beauty salon works on all kinds of furry friends and also offers boarding. Town & Country Veterinary Hospital, with state-of-the-art dryers as well as the Hy-

dro surge bathing system, is Second Place.

Best Tutoring School — Sylvan Learning Center. Get help for your child here in reading, writing, homework, math, study skills, preparation for state tests as well as SATs. It also offers academic camps. Second Place is Kumon Math & Reading.

OUT & ABOUT

Best Place to Have a First Date — Barone's. With music under the stars, its own organic spice garden (which leads to good conversation along with enhancing the taste) and great food, this is the place to go to impress that potential special someone. Second Place is Stacey's Café, with a fun menu and great décor.

Best Golf Course — Callippe Preserve. Winner of 15 awards (including a couple from us), it's been named one of the top municipal courses in the country by Golfweek Magazine. Keep your eyes open for the elusive Callippe Silverspot Butterfly. Second Place is Castlewood Country Club, with two separate courses, the Hill Course and the Valley Course.

Best Place for Live Music — Concerts in the Park. The free Friday concerts are so popular that Pleasanton has to ask people not to set their blankets out the day before. Just the place to start off a great weekend. Second Place is Main Street Brewery, with live music on Friday and Saturday nights from 9 p.m. to midnight.

Best Place to Get Together with Friends — Downtown Pleasanton. With coffee, pastries, casual and fine dining or for just a win-

dow shopping stroll, downtown Pleasanton is our Readers Choice once again. Second Place is Concerts in the Park. Get together, sip some wine and dance with friends. Make sure you get that blanket out early, though.

Best Place for a Picnic — Concerts in the Park. Some of our readers just bring a blanket and a basket, while others go all out with chairs, tables and crystal. Either way, the concerts have great music and no ants. Second Place — any park in Pleasanton. Pick a park on any a warm day — you're sure to find a family or a couple dining al fresco.

Best Place for an After Work Drink — Hop Yard Alehouse & Grill. One word covers it: beer. From lagers to barleywine, our readers know the Hop Yard is the place to go for a cold one on a hot day. Second Place is Redcoats, with the friendliness of a British pub and without the warm beer.

Best Place to People Watch — Main Street. With a busy Main Street any weekday afternoon and especially at First Wednesday street parties, sitting at a restaurant or walking along, downtown is a fine place to watch the world go by. Second Place is the Plaza at Main & West Angela where Tully's is on the corner, a great place to congregate.

Best Place to Meet New People — Main Street. The Wine Stroll, First Wednesdays, museum tours like the Ghost Walk and the Art on Main all offer great opportunities to spark up a conversation with a total stranger. Second Place is the Farmers Market, where you can trade recipes with people you've only known for five minutes.

Best Place for Dancing — Redcoats. DJs spin music with videos from 10 p.m. to close on Fridays and Saturdays, and in the summer, you can catch a DJ Thursdays

and First Wednesdays, too. Don't slip your disco. Second Place is Barone's with live bands Thursday and free admission before 6.

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READERS CHOICE 2011



Tailor Agustin Estrella works diligently in the back of Savvy Seconds, adding a touch of flair and craft to the garments. Readers choose the stop, at 560 Main St., as both the Best Consignment Store and Best Women's Clothing Store.



SHOPPING

Best Florist — Alexandria's. This family-owned flower shop prides itself on friendly, creative service as well as fine floral arrangements and unique home accents for special occasions or "just because." Second Place is Pleasanton Flower Shop, whose hands-on owner will also assemble fruit and gourmet baskets.

Best Place to Buy a Gift — Berry Patch. This unique downtown shop has been a place for artisans to show and sell their work since

1994; the merchandise is an eclectic mix of hand crafted items, gifts, toys and cards — something for everyone. Second Place is Clover Creek, which offers beautiful home decor and gift items, plus a vast selection of cards.

Best Bicycle Shop — Bicycles! Pleasanton. Bicycling goes way beyond transportation from your house to your best friend's as it did in our childhoods. Let the experts at this Main Street shop guide you along the route. Second Place is Crank 2, which specializes in tandem bikes.

Best Jewelry Store — Cardinal Jewelers. Jim Kuhn opened this sparkling shop in 1977 to fulfill his dream of becoming a small-town jeweler. Pleasanton has grown but Cardinal still offers small-town friendliness and service. Second Place is Jewelers Gallery on Main Street.

Best Home Furnishings — Clover Creek. Finish off your home with specially selected home accents, pillows and wall pieces from this Main Street store that has become a Pleasanton fixture. Second Place is Rick's Picks, newer to Pleasanton Main Street but offering great bargains on quality merchandise.

Best Home Consignment Shop — Home Consignment Center. Folks apparently don't mind driving to Danville for this shop, which offers quality furniture and accessories at lower prices, as well as jewelry. Whether you need anything or not, it's always a fun place to browse. Second Place is Rick's Picks.

Best Hobby/Craft Store — Michael's Arts & Crafts. For crafty projects as well as for fun seasonal do-it-yourself decorating, check out this store in Dublin — it'll light your imagination on fire. A variety of classes is also offered. Second Place is Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft, also in Dublin.

Best Outdoor Furniture Store — Patioworld. We look for beauty and comfort but don't forget durability in California since we leave our patio furniture outside year round. Patioworld has classic and stylish contemporary outdoor furniture and accessories to enhance your life outdoors. Second Place

READERS CHOICE 2011



Stocked from floor to ceiling with tires, pumps, handles and accessories, Bicycles! Pleasanton at 573 Main St. was voted as the Best Bike Shop in town. Right: With an assortment of colorful flowers and garden décor, Alexandria's, 3037 Hopyard Road, was voted Best Florist by our readers.



is Richert Lumber, which offers a wide selection in the store and its catalog.

Best Consignment Store — Savvy Seconds. This upscale consignment boutique in the cute brick building on Main Street offers designer clothes, jewelry and accessories at much less than their original price. It's also a good place to turn over the clothes that didn't work out or that you're tired of. A couple of blocks away is Lotus Consignment, which came in second.

Best Women's Clothing Store — Savvy Seconds. Wow! This place must be savvy to win this category as well as Best Consignment Store. Check it out for one-of-a-kind items and stylish clothes at a good price. Second Place is Passionate Athlete with its active and casual wear.

Best Place to Buy Athletic Equipment — Sports Chalet. On Rosewood Drive, this huge store offers gear for any athletic endeavor for indoor, outdoor, summer or winter. It has everything needed for scuba diving, including a pool and instructor to teach the sport. Second Place is Play It Again Sports, which offers used and new goods.

Best Art Gallery — Studio 7 Arts. Put this gallery on your list of stop-in places every time you are strolling down Main Street, or make it a special destination. Its imaginative art — including glass sculptures — will help you redefine spaces in your home. Distinctive jewelry will help define you. Second Place is Alexander's Fine Art, also on Main Street.

Best Bookstore — Towne Center Books. Independent bookstores are a dying breed; heck, even chain

stores of actual printed, hold-in-your-hands-and-turn-the-pages books are closing. But Towne Center is keeping the literary spirit alive with personal service, a great selection, book groups and events with authors. Borders came in second but it closed its Pleasanton store recently. It's still selling online.

Best Grocery Store — Trader Joe's. TJ's making cooking fun, always offering something new to try, and easy to prepare. It keeps its prices reasonable by keeping a small inventory but still manages to have the basics on hand as well as exciting new products. Second Place — Gene's Fine Foods. This independent grocery makes its salads and other deli items from scratch with its tried and tasty recipes, and its extensive meat counter gets good reviews, too.

Best Health Food Store — Trader Joe's. The company emphasizes the

natural and the healthy with items that are gluten-free, vegan, vegetarian, fat-free and kosher. It prides itself on products with quality, natural ingredients with no artificial flavors, colors or preservatives, no genetically modified ingredients, no MSG and no added Trans Fats. Second Place is Valley Health Mill; its knowledgeable staff can help you become healthier through eating, with natural supplements.

Best Wine Store — The Wine Steward. You don't have to leave Main Street to find a vast assortment of wines — including 100 carefully selected wines under \$10 — and helpful, knowledgeable staff. It offers speakers and events to enhance your wine knowledge — sign up for its newsletter. Second Place is Trader Joe's, which is known for Two Buck Chuck but offers better quality wines at reasonable prices. ■



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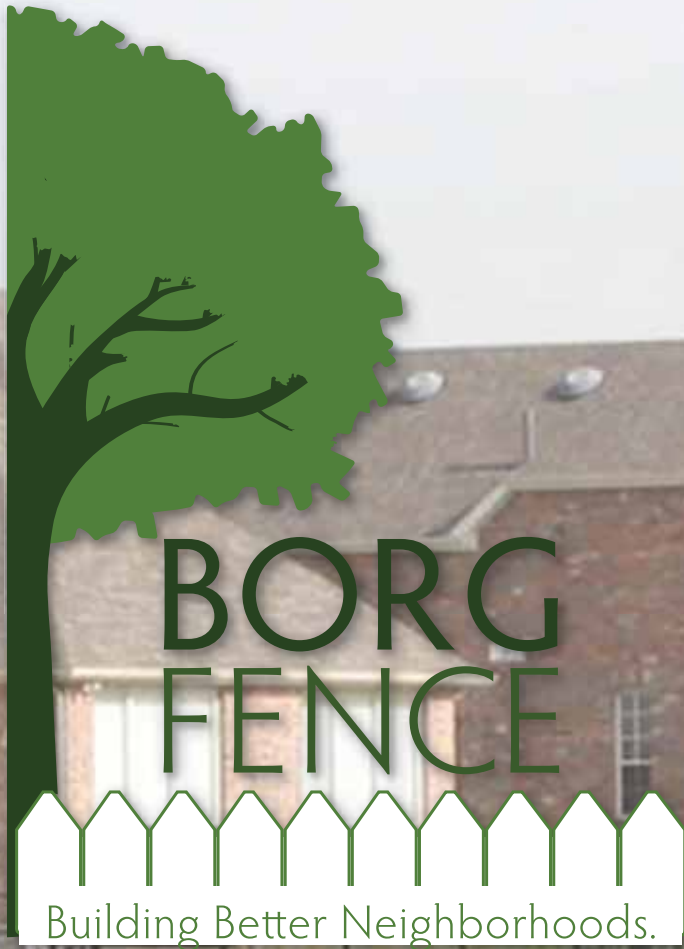
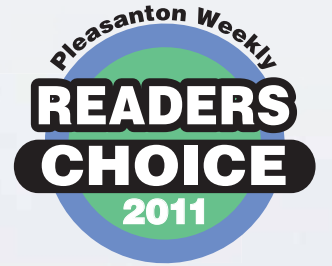
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