

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Vol. VIII, Number 37 • October 12, 2007

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It's all about Pleasanton

Bernal

Kottinger

Hearst

Neal

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Book tells history through story, images

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No appeal

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Fight the flu

Large amounts of vaccines available this year
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Helping hands

Locals give Afghanis education, medical care
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Seeing improvement

Mortgage, housing markets looking good
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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Veterans have a friend in Pleasanton: It's the city

This is a great town for veterans and those still on active duty in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan or one of the hundreds of other military installations and on ships around the world. Yellow banners fly on Main Street with the names of those now serving in harm's way. The Pleasanton Military Families works with families whose loved ones are on active duty to make sure those left behind have adequate care and a few shoulders to lean on to make it through the long months of separation. Operation S.A.M. and the Blue Star Moms are other local organizations that collect nonperishables to send to the troops. Local Realtors also join in these efforts, sending "care" packages, as they're called, to those stationed in remote locations. We also send a copy of the Pleasanton Weekly every Friday to service men and women in the Gulf and Afghanistan.

We saw a clear demonstration of our community's respect for the military last Sunday when more than 500 took time during a weather-perfect Sunday afternoon to join in re-dedicating the newly restored Veterans Memorial Building. This 1933-era facility has hosted thousands of troops for the last seven decades, and was filled on the weekends during World War II as the USO and other organizations entertained soldiers temporarily housed at nearby training camps before shipping out to the war in the Pacific. It was a haven for soldiers back from Korea, back from Vietnam, and now coming back from Iraq. Home to the local posts of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, it's Pleasanton's vivid statement of support for those who serve our country.

I was among the 100 or so veterans at Sunday's ceremonies, where Congressman Jerry McNerney and Mayor Jennifer Hosterman led tributes to those who have worn the uniform and those now in service. Particularly heartwarming was McNerney's praise for the military and his call to each of us to stand when he called our service

branch. For me, it was the Army. Nearby were Joe Wolfenberger and William Wright, both in their 80s, who served in the Navy from 1942-1946. Dave Ham, commander of VFW Post 6298, stood with other Marines. An Air Force brass quintet from Travis Air Base played for the airmen who stood in response. Loud applause came after every introduction and after other patriotic moves, from the posting of the colors in front of the Veterans Building to the ribbon-cutting by officers in the Pleasanton veterans organizations, McNerney, Hosterman, Councilwoman Cindy McGovern and others, who officially reopened the mammoth veterans hall.

The City Council invested \$4.8 million to restore the downtown landmark, which actually looks almost the same as before the project started. That's the way it was supposed to be. The restoration process was skillfully handled by Community service Manager Eileen Morley Hofstadt with close supervision from the VFW and American Legion. For Hofstadt, it was her last hurrah before retiring after a career of service to Pleasanton. Most of the improvements are behind the wall or under the floor: air conditioning for the first time, a new heating system, upgraded electrical wiring and transformers to meet 21st century code, and steel supports to reinforce the sides of the building and the roof (which was actually removed for a time to allow for the new frame).

Tomorrow night, we have a chance to come together as a community of veterans and patriots again for a USO-themed Gala Dance. In a nod to the building's original opening year, tickets are prices at \$19.33 per couple and are available at the door or in advance at the Parks and Community Services Department, 200 Old Bernal Ave. For the few veterans who can still fit into their old uniforms, this is an event where you can wear them with pride. ■

About the Cover

Agostin Bernal, John William Kottinger, Phoebe Hearst and Joshua Ayres Neal are faces of Pleasanton's past featured in new local history book. "Images of America: Pleasanton" was written by resident Mary-Jo Wainwright with much help from the Museum On Main. Cover design by Manuel Valenzuela

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Streetwise

Q: Do you think the amount of homework your children receive is appropriate?

Asked Downtown



Bob Gatehouse
Project Manager

Homework needs to be tailored to the students. I think there is too much busy work expected of the brightest students, some who may already know the subject before attending the first class. Teachers need to adapt their approach to insure that each student's talents are developed.

Kerrie Watkins
Operations Director

The amount of homework my daughter receives is appropriate. My complaint would be with the follow up—after the work is handed in. The follow up could be more conclusive. Expectations between teachers should be more consistent. Partnership between parents, students and school is important.



Edie Messick
Stay-at-Home Mom

My children spend 2-3 1/2 hours per night doing homework. The high school kids are not in bed some nights until midnight and my fourth-grader, by the time we get done with other activities, still has a ton of work to do. It definitely affects our home life and feels over the top. When you're tired the homework doesn't sink in.

Debbie LaMay
Owner A-1 American Plumbing

My daughter attends private school. She has about 30 minutes of work nightly and the rest of the time is used for family time. Stories I hear from other parents alarm me. Time spent on homework seems excessive. Either they know the work or they don't. They can prove that by completing 10 problems just as well as completing 40.



John Weiman
Owner Passionate Athlete

For my younger children up to fifth grade, especially if you have any extra curricular activity, it seems excessive. For my middle school son, either he has learned to do it quickly or it is a tolerable level. When there is too much homework it just becomes a redundant exercise that everyone in the family has to suffer through.

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



Dr. Robert F. Gray, MD, FACS,
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Robert F. Gray, MD, FACS

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Newsfront

News Digest

Make blankets for children

A meeting room in the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., will be reserved from 3 to 5 p.m. Oct. 19 for those who need help with making blankets for abused, at-risk and neglected children. Please provide sharp fabric scissors and fleece (1 yard for babies, 1.5 yards for toddlers and 2 yards for teens). The blankets are distributed through Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and San Ramon police departments. There will be snacks for kids.

ACTIA hosts transportation forum

The Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA) in partnership with its Citizens Advisory Committee and sponsoring agencies host an East County Transportation Forum from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 18 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. To be discussed are: I-580 corridor improvements, I-580/Route 84 interchange, the Route 84 expressway and I-680 express lanes. These projects are funded through tax dollars and state, federal and other funds.

Rummage through Hart's sale

Hart Middle School, 4433 Willow Road, is holding a rummage sale from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 20. Gently used toys, clothes, house wares and more will be for sale. Money raised will go to the Parent-Faculty Association. To donate items to sell, drop them off at the school from 3 to 6 p.m. Oct. 19. Tax deduction credit given. Call 846-0329 for more information.

Pick a pumpkin in Half Moon Bay

Visit the "World Pumpkin Capital" of Half Moon Bay for the annual art and pumpkin festival this weekend. In its 37th year, the festival has activities for young and old, including pumpkin weigh-offs, harvest-inspired crafts, contests and more. It will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Main Street between Miramonte and Spruce streets in Half Moon Bay. Admission is free. Call 650-726-9652 or visit www.miramonte-revents.com.

Corrections

The Weekly desires to correct all significant errors. To request a correction, call the editor at (925) 600-0840 or e-mail: editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

District decides it won't appeal the state's test score decision regarding PMS

Time, effort to be focused instead on student achievement

by Emily Atwood

The Pleasanton Unified School District will not appeal the state's decision to invalidate Pleasanton Middle School's test scores, according to Myla Grasso. Coming to the decision earlier this week, officials said they would like to focus the time and resources on the students, not an appeals process.

In late August, as the 2006 STAR (Standardized Testing and Reporting) test results were to be revealed, the California Department

of Education (CDE) said the middle school's scores were to be invalidated after handwritten copies of a 2005 practice test were reportedly made by a teacher.

Grasso said the decision to not appeal the ruling is in part due to the CDE Web site showing a score for Pleasanton Middle, when it was previously said would be omitted.

"We determined that we need to be careful about how we allocate our time and resources," she said. "And the state has given us a score anyway."

The process was estimated to have taken several months of paperwork and additional investigations.

At the same time, Grasso said the district is not convinced that the state's original claims are true.

Casey was not available to comment, but said in a previous interview that he believed the district's investigations into the test copying proved that the PMS students didn't have any advantage for the 2006 testing.

"The [CDE] couldn't get over the fact that PMS's scores were so

high," Casey said. "District staff believes that the scores at Pleasanton Middle reflect only the achievement of the students at the school."

Additionally, Casey and Grasso, as well as other members of the community, wondered why the other middle schools weren't also targeted for invalidation as teachers in each of the three middle schools were allegedly given copies of the practice test.

To view results and information from STAR testing, visit <http://star.cde.ca.gov>. ■



Pleasanton veterans William Wright (left) and Joe Wolfenberger stand for the playing of "Anchors Away" at ceremonies last Sunday to re-dedicate the newly restored Veterans Memorial Building on Main Street. The two were seamen in the U.S. Navy from 1942 to 1946, serving on battleships in the Pacific during World War II. They were among about 100 veterans and active duty service men and women in a crowd of more than 500 that turned out for the ceremonies, marking the re-opening of the Veterans facility that was built in 1933 and restored to its original luster in a \$4.8-million city project.

Jeb Bing

Preventing crimes of opportunity

Pleasanton police organize community outreach this month

Vehicular burglaries and thefts from cars spiked by 20 percent in August and continue to increase this month, according to Lt. Darrin Davis with the Pleasanton Police Department.

Police are responding by holding a community outreach over the next couple weeks, where Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS) will go door-to-door in Pleasanton neighborhoods.

Davis described these crimes as "mostly preventable" since valuables are often left in plain view of a vehicle that may not even be locked.

"It provides a criminal with a very quick getaway," he said. "It's mostly overnight, although some happen in the daytime too."

During these prevention patrols, VIPS will be wearing light blue uniforms and passing

out crime prevention flyers that will remind everyone to lock vehicles and conceal valuables. Residents will also be encouraging residents to report any suspicious activity to the police and become involved in the neighborhood watch program.

According to police statistics, 30 percent of the property crimes in Pleasanton are the direct result of victims not concealing valuables. Popular items stolen include laptop computers, GPS navigational systems, cell phones and MP3 players.

A 20 percent increase of these crimes is also seen during the holiday season, so additional officers will be patrolling. Davis also reminds shoppers to place purchases in the trunk before heading back into the stores for second round shopping.

—Emily Atwood

Pleasanton mourns Irene Pons

Oldest living Pleasanton native and Amador grad remembered for her love of the arts, wit

by Janet Pelletier

When Irene Pons began high school at Amador Valley, it was called Amador Valley Joint Union High School. It was 1923, one year after the school first opened. When the school celebrated its 80th birthday in 2002, she was on hand, invited to the special occasion because of her extensive history.

Mrs. Pons, a lifelong resident of Pleasanton, died Oct. 2 at the age of 97. She was the oldest living native of Pleasanton as well as the

oldest living Amador grad at the time of her death. A daughter of Italian immigrants, Mrs. Pons was known for her ravioli dishes and biscotti.

Her interests spanned all of the arts, from playing the piano to painting to cooking to writing poetry to sewing.



Irene Pons

"She was a very bright woman," said her son Gene.

Her love for life didn't fade away toward the end, as she continued to live alone in her home on Vineyard Place, cherishing the times her nieces and nephews stopped by to eat her homemade biscotti cookies, made from a recipe she inherited from her Italian family. A large book she kept held numerous recipes that were passed down to her from her mother and grandmother,



Janet Pelletier

This is one of Irene Pons' paintings, which hangs in her home.

(continued on page 10)

Award created in honor of late school board president Haugen

Elected women's association to honor influential women

by Janet Pelletier

The mark Juanita Haugen has made on education in Pleasanton is unmistakable. Up until her death in March, she was the president of the Pleasanton Unified School District.

She was the longest-serving trustee in the history of the local schools, with her first term beginning in 1979. Aside from her school trusteeship, she was the founder of the Pleasanton Youth Collaborative, was one of the charter members of the board of directors for Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation and founded the Pleasanton Community of Character Coalition.

To honor Haugen's service and legacy, the East Bay chapter of the California Elected Women's Association for Education and Research (CEWAER) has created The Juanita Haugen Women Making a Difference Award.

The nonprofit association will honor three women in the categories of education, community service and business at a luncheon

Oct. 27.

Judy Biviano Lloyd, secretary for CEWAER who was a good friend of Haugen's, said she wanted to honor "an icon among women—an inspirational woman who gave much to her community."

Haugen founded the East Bay chapter of CEWAER and served as the state president in 2005-6.

"This was an idea that I came up with because I said 'What's the best way for the organization—which she led so wonderfully—what's the best way for us to recognize her?'" Lloyd said. "The thing that we got from Juanita was the ability to make a difference, so that's why we decided to do this and I'm so proud we did."

The association represents influential women in the Alameda and Contra Costa county region and



Juanita Haugen

is open to men and women who support women to vote and seek public office. CEWAER does not endorse candidates, issues or legislative bills.

The award categories follow the Community of Character model that Haugen created. Lloyd said because Haugen was passionate about such character traits as responsibility, compassion, self-discipline, honesty, respect and integrity, that it should be the standard for the women the association will honor.

While the period to nominate a woman for an award has passed, the public is invited to purchase tickets to the awards luncheon, which will be held at 11:30 a.m. at Barone's restaurant, 475 St. John St.

Sponsorships for the luncheon are also available at three levels: \$500, \$750 and \$1,000. Proceeds from sponsorships will go to the state chapter of CEWAER to help the organization's operating expenses.

For information, visit www.cewaer.org or call 916-551-1920. ■

Monday is tax time for thousands

Late filers have until midnight to file federal, state returns

The Internal Revenue Service and Franchise Tax Board have issued friendly reminders to the thousands of taxpayers who opted to file their returns late this year that their tax payments must be postmarked before midnight Monday.

Each year, nearly 1 million taxpayers file their California income tax returns on extension. Those who file late may face penalties.

"Oct. 15 is an important deadline," said State Controller and FTB

Chairman John Chiang. "Plenty of time remains and I encourage them to take advantage of FTB services like e-file and e-pay that make filing a tax return easier."

E-filing offers quick refunds, increased accuracy and timely confirmation that the FTB received your return, he said. FTB offers free online e-file for many taxpayers through its CalFile program available at the FTB's Web site at ftb.ca.gov. Taxpayers can also e-file

using their tax preparer or commercial online software provider.

California taxpayers can also pay any state taxes due using their Discover/NOVUS, MasterCard, American Express or Visa credit cards. To pay by credit card, taxpayers can call (800) 2PAY TAX [(800) 272-9829] or visit www.officialpayments.com. The vendor charges a convenience fee.

—Jeb Bing

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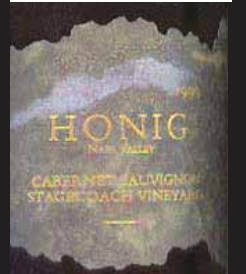
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Second Home Depot meeting scheduled for Oct. 17

Forum about proposed center at Bernal/Stanley open to public

by Janet Pelletier

The second in a series of public forums on the much talked-about Home Depot proposal is planned to be held on Wednesday.

The city's Planning Department will host the forum with the community to share the updated information and data they have gathered about the project. The project bid, called the Pleasanton Gateway Shopping Center, is being made by Regency Centers, a commercial center development firm. Plans include building a

new Home Depot, Longs Drugs and other smaller retail stores, including a Starbucks coffee shop, on a 14.7-acre site at the southeast corner of the Stanley Boulevard/Bernal Avenue intersection, across from McDonald's.

The project was approved by the Planning Commission, 4-1, in December, but was pulled back from approval by the City Council after council members requested that the city meet with residents who are concerned about the shopping center's effects on the

neighborhood as well as anyone else who wants to learn more about the project or ask questions of city staff. Those opposing the project have been primarily concerned about an increase in traffic congestion, noise from trucks delivering goods to the home improvement store and the economic viability of a second Home Depot in Pleasanton.

During the first public forum,

(continued on page 8)



A "woman" carrying her "babies" waits to see if immigration officials will accept her paperwork and allow her into the United States.

Coming to America

Walnut Grove students learn how immigrants came through Ellis Island

by Janet Pelletier

Some 90 fourth- and fifth-graders experienced what it was like to be an immigrant coming to the United States in the early part of the 20th century on Oct. 4.

The Walnut Grove Elementary students, who are in teachers Joanne Nix, Becky Konitzer and Terri Quensiberry's classes, dressed up and acted the parts involving the process of immigrants coming through Ellis Island in New York to be admitted as U.S. citizens.

The children chose their country of origin and a name and were anything from upper class society-types to lower-class citizens. Some played immigrants while others played immigration workers who checked their paperwork and decided whether they'd be let into the United States. Some wore fancy hats and bonnets, fur coats and toted suitcases while others with dirt-covered faces wore mangy clothes and wore just the shirts off their backs. Yet others wore shawls and handkerchiefs and carried babies (baby dolls).

"Some of them were deported and some of them—if they were upper class especially—passed right through inspection," explained teacher Nix, adding that this was a learning experience for the students to see

what life was really like back then.

Nix said this is the first time she's taught the subject of immigration in her fourth and fifth-grade Discovery joint class. While most fourth- and fifth-graders are learning about American history in the form of the Oregon Trail, Nix said she decided to teach a section about immigration because it is such a prevalent topic today.

"It's an issue that's in the news a lot today and many of them are hearing about it on television," she said.

After the majority of the "immigrants" were accepted, while some were "deported," students sang the "Pledge of Allegiance," "Grand Old Flag" and the "Star Spangled Banner." ■



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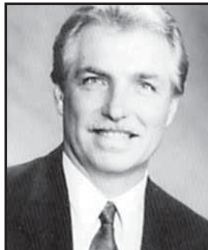
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TRANSPORTATION FORUM IN EAST COUNTY

The public is invited to hear about and discuss transportation project details, schedules, and contracting opportunities at an East County Transportation Forum. The Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority in conjunction with its Citizens Advisory Committee and partnering agencies will host the forum which features presentations on major transportation projects that will be implemented within the next five years.

This Transportation Forum will focus on four projects including:

- **580 Corridor Improvements**
Corridor widening for high occupancy vehicles, auxiliary lanes and land preservation for the future BART extension
- **I-580/Route 84 Interchange**
New interchange on I-580 Interchange to Vallecitos Road
- **I-680 Express Lanes**
High occupancy toll lanes

These projects are funded through Measure B, Alameda County's half-cent transportation sales tax. October 18, 2007 at Pleasanton Senior Center; 5353 Sunol Boulevard. Open House at 6:30 p.m.; Formal Presentations at 7:00 p.m. For more information, contact Tess Lengyel or Keonnis Taylor at 510-893-4437

Home Depot

(continued from page 7)

"As this will be the first time the community has seen the answers to these questions, city staff wants input from members of the community if they believe that important issues are not addressed or data appears to be inconsistent."

—Nancy Allen

held in July, Planning Director Jerry Iserson and his planning staff identified and confirmed questions residents had asked

about the plan. At the Oct. 17 meeting, city staff will present the answers to those questions based on the research they've compiled since the last forum.

Nancy Allen, who has been leading Stop Pleasanton Gridlock, a citizens' group that advocates traffic concerns throughout the city, said in an email sent to supporters, "As this will be the first time the community has seen the answers to these questions, city staff wants input from members of the community if they believe that important issues are not addressed or data appears to be inconsistent. Jerry Iserson and his team are very committed to presenting the most comprehensive information to the council, so they will make the best decision for Pleasanton."

The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 17 at the City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. Any questions or comments related to the project should be directed to Iserson at 931-5600 or jiserson@ci.pleasanton.ca.us. ■



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Flu shots are readily available

by Emily Atwood

There are more flu vaccines now than have ever been produced, according to Art Woo, program director of Sutter infusion and pharmacy services.

While the volume of vaccines available is unusual, Woo said Sutter's shipment was also delivered early and at once, instead of staggered through the season.

"This month through November is an excellent time to get a flu shot," Woo said. "Flu season starts late November and peaks around mid to late December."

Woo said he encourages children, and adults over 50 to get vaccinated. Even those in the typical healthy adult range (ages 18 to 50) may consider getting a shot, especially those who suffer from asthma, diabetes, congestive heart failure, a vascular disease or another ailment that could result in a weakened

immune system, to get a shot.

"For those who don't have much reserve to fight the flu off, it's a great idea to get vaccinated," he said. "It's also a good idea for people who live in a long-term care facility or are around those in the risk groups."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, some should consult a physician before obtaining a shot: people who have a severe allergy to chicken eggs, have had a severe reaction to flu shots in the past, have developed Guillian-Barre syndrome (GBS) within six weeks of previously getting a flu shot, children under six months of age, and people who have a moderate or severe illness with a fever. The latter mentioned should wait until the symptoms lessen.

For more information about the flu, visit www.cdc.gov/flu

Where to get vaccinated

Sutter VNA & Hospice

Children ages 9 and older, adults and seniors can come to Pleasanton Presbyterian Church, 4300 Mirador Drive, from 9:30 a.m. to noon Oct. 14. The cost is \$25. Visit www.suttervna.org for more information.

ValleyCare Health System

Flu shots will be available at ValleyCare occupational health clinics in Pleasanton and Livermore and at the mobile health clinic starting Oct. 15. For more information, call 847-3000.

San Ramon Regional

Free flu shots will be available for seniors Nov. 9 (while supplies last) in the South Building, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. From 9 to 10 a.m., ages 65 and older will

(continued on page 11)

Whet your appetite for PPIE

by Elizabeth Campos Rajs

Duck with pomegranate glaze, pumpkin mousse with rum sauce and butternut squash ravioli with gorgonzola cream sauce are just a few of the delicacies that will be served up Saturday night at Pleasanton Partnership in Education's annual culinary event.

Fifteen local chefs have volunteered to whip up creative hors d'oeuvres, entrees and desserts to serve at "Bon Appetit: Toasts and Tastes of Fall."

The event, which is PPIE's largest fundraising event of the year, will be held from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the Carr America Conference Center, 4400 Rosewood Drive. Tickets are \$55 per person and are available online at www.ppie.org

until noon Saturday.

Proceeds will fund grants and programs for students and faculty in the Pleasanton Unified School District. PPIE is a nonprofit foundation that fosters partnerships between the school district, local businesses and community organizations.

"We're excited about the enthusiasm this event is generating on all levels—from the chefs who are interested in creating spectacular food items to the principals and administrators who are excited to participate, to our sponsors, who are generously contributing their time and money for our schools," said PPIE Executive Director Debi Covello.

The event, which Covello describes as a festive cocktail party, features 15 food stations and each one is staffed

by a chef, a school principal and a corporate sponsor. Each food sample is paired with a wine tasting. The event also features a martini bar, silent and live auctions.

To help generate ticket sales, PPIE offers a \$200 prize to the school parent club that sells the most tickets. For the third year in a row, Donlon Elementary is leading the effort with more than 50 tickets sold, but at press time, Walnut Grove Elementary was a very close second, Covello said.

This is the fourth year PPIE has hosted the culinary-themed fundraiser. Last year's event raised more than \$80,000, Covello said.

For more information about the event or PPIE, call 846-5620 or visit www.ppie.org. ■



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Newsfront

Three recognized by school district for “responsibility”

Honor is part of the Community of Character trait program

Responsibility is something Karen Brown, Dana Hansen and Jacki Stewart don't take lightly.

The three were honored at last Tuesday's Pleasanton Unified School District board meeting for exemplifying the Community of Character Program's trait “responsibility.”

Brown, a parent and employee at Fairlands Elementary School, was responsible for giving the impetus to the Go Green program at the school and in 2005, the school won national recognition as a “Go Green School of the Year,” according to Superintendent John Casey. When parents and faculty observed that students were lacking etiquette three years ago, Brown spearheaded the ‘Manners Program’ that culminated in a luncheon where students could prac-

tice their social graces, greeting and serving their parents, the principal and the superintendent. The program has continued to spread to other campuses.

Hansen, a Lydiksen Elementary School parent, heard about Fairlands' successful ‘Manner Program’ and volunteered to help start it for Lydiksen fourth-graders, according to Casey. She coordinated it for a lunchtime format and has agreed to help again this year.

Stewart, a parent volunteer at Harvest Park Middle School, is the school's PTA chairwoman for Go Green and an advocate for the district, Casey said.

“It is not uncommon to see Jacki working with adults and students on a daily basis,” Casey said. “All summer long, she volunteered her time to maintain and

improve the school garden.”

Most recently, Stewart has spearheaded the food scrap recycling program, which has been a success. She also gives her time to help other schools, sharing how she organizes parent volunteers for every lunch period and educates students on the importance of recycling, Casey said.

The nominations for character trait recognition are submitted by staff and students and were reviewed by the district's Personal Development Advisory Committee. The traits include: responsibility, compassion, self-discipline, honesty, respect and integrity. The district recognizes groups or individuals six times during the year. For information about the program, call Kevin Johnson at 426-4290.

—Janet Pelletier

Pons

(continued from page 5)

who lived in a small village outside of Portofino, Italy.

Mrs. Pons was born in Pleasanton on Jan. 9, 1910 to parents Adele and Luigi (Louis) Ghiotti. The Ghiottis came to Pleasanton after crossing through Ellis Island from Italy in 1897.

After she graduated from high school in 1927, Mrs. Pons worked as a telephone operator.

“The phone numbers back then were just three digits,” Gene Pons said. “When she started, there were 215 numbers in Pleasanton.”

When a fire broke out, it was Mrs. Pons' job to ring the fire alarm.

She married her husband Dan in 1934. The pair became the proprietors and operators of the Colombo Hotel and Restaurant that same year, managing it until 1942 when World War II began. The business was passed down from Mrs. Pons' parents, who purchased the hotel after they were told the owner was looking to sell it because they were having a problem with “ladies of the night.” The hotel was located at 537 Main St., where Bicycles! Pleasanton is now located. At the time, the hotel had eight to 10 rooms and attached cabins. The Ghiottis lived in a home behind the hotel.

After selling the Colombo, Dan Pons went to work for Kaiser, while Mrs. Pons was a stay-at-home mom during the time her only son Gene was in school.

Her love for the arts filled a big part of her life, as she was involved in the founding of the Pleasanton Art League. As an avid artist, Mrs. Pons painted a number of works, many of which she commissioned and sold.

“One of the best ones she painted was of the Pleasanton Hotel, which when she lived on Vervais Street, they had a great view



Pons, along with her husband Dan, owned and operated the Colombo Hotel and Restaurant. Here, a float is part of the 1936 Fiesta del Vino.

looking down on the hotel,” Gene Pons said.

The hotel's owner like the painting so much, he bought it. Mrs. Pons painted for most of her life until her eyesight started failing.

A love of music led her to play the piano and in 1929, she purchased a Sherman & Clay piano for \$259. She kept the receipt, which showed that she paid it off at \$9/month—which was considered a lot of money at the time.

The piano still sits in her home, a reminder to her son of all the times she used to play classical music at family gatherings as well as alone in her solitude. She also enjoyed sewing and often times bought patterns and made her own clothing. Writing poetry and short stories came naturally to her. At Christmastime last year, she wrote a spinoff to “’Twas the Night Before Christmas,” to include all of her family members' names.

She was a sharp woman up until her death.

“She had a good sense of humor. She still enjoyed a lot before her death,” Gene Pons said. “Many of her memories go back to her trip to Italy to visit her family. She had a tremendously good memory.”

“She was always good-natured. Not much bothered her,” added Gene's wife Annie. “She was very articulate, very knowledgeable. She listened to the radio all the time and was up on politics.”

Mrs. Pons stayed vibrant through her 90s and could read off all the states and their capitols, something she liked to practice as a mental exercise.

She was also an independent and self-sufficient woman, having lived alone until her death.

Because Mrs. Pons' history with Pleasanton runs so deep, Gene Pons said he plans to work with the Museum On Main to share some of her photographs and keepsakes.

Mrs. Pons is survived by her son Gene Pons of Pleasanton; daughter-in-law Annie Pons; three grandchildren: David, Jennifer and Matthew; three great-grandchildren: Carly, Cole and Camille and loving nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her loving husband Dan in 1978.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Hospice of the East Bay, 3470 Buskirk Ave., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523.

The family plans to hold a private gathering to remember her. ■

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Holy Weekly

Sisters Dolores Marciel and Annette Kazarian celebrate Easter Mass at the Vatican in Rome, Italy.



A flip-floppin' Weekly

It was a flip-flop kind of evening in Belize when the Snyder family took this photo with the Weekly. The family includes Craig, Lisa and their children Tracy, Kari and Jesse. On their vacation, they visited the island of San Pedro where they went snorkeling, scuba diving, zip lining, cave tubing and played volleyball on the beach.

Flu

(continued from page 9)

receive shots and from 10 a.m. to noon, any adult over 50 will receive shots. soon. Call 800-284-2878 for more information.

Nob Hill Foods

From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 6 p.m. Oct. 12 and 13, Nob Hill Foods on 3112 Santa Rita Road will offer flu and pneumonia shots. Flu shots are \$25 for the general public and "free" for individuals with Part B Medicare and no HMO insurance coverage. Visit www.nobhill.com. ■

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Pleasanton Real Estate News



by
Gerarda
Stocking

WHEN IS THIN TOO THIN?

I don't know about you, but I had a grandfather who proffered advice the way Shakespeare's master of the mundane, Polonius, did. "Neither a borrower nor a lender be," he would say, quoting his hero. It was good advice—or so it seemed at the time.

Fired by logic like this, the imagination can think of no one more likely to pay off a debt he reluctantly takes out than a person who has no prior debt on his record. Right? Wrong, according to the workings of the credit score programs. Someone who does not have a fairly full and lengthy history of taking out and repaying debt has a "thin file," and is unlikely to get as high a credit score as someone who has been building up and paying down his credit card balances for years and years.

This is important. It's a clear example of the ways our long-accustomed common-sense views of the best possible handling of money may fly in the face of the scoring mechanisms that affect our ability to take out a home mortgage with the best possible interest rate. And it doesn't stop there. Even the premium on your auto insurance is affected by your credit score in most cases.

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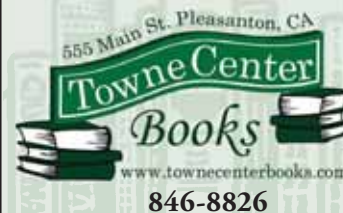
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Pages of Our Past

by Emily Atwood

Who is this Kottinger guy? And what's this you hear about a Hearst's castle in Pleasanton? Why did San Francisco own Pleasanton land? Wonder no more as these and more questions are answered in a new book, titled "Images of America: Pleasanton." The 127-page book is filled with stories of Pleasanton—past, present and future. And it's anything but dusty.

A man pumps gas at the Shell gas station on Main Street. The station, designed in the Mission Revival style, was built by John Amaral in 1931.

When local historian Mary-Jo Wainwright was asked to help the Museum On Main in publishing a book about the history of Pleasanton, she was already well versed in the subject. A resident since 1991, she also completed three papers about the city's history in her pursuit of a master's degree in East Bay history. Yet she was still surprised by delving even deeper in her research.

The first came in how the downtown stayed so well preserved. She said she assumed that there was an ordinance to preserve the historic characteristics, but she found nothing to support that assumption.

"The fact that they maintained it shocks me when all other cities didn't," she said. "The city council and the community became focused early on. A lot of people faced making [development] decisions, but people didn't come in and rip up the downtown."

She added that the downtown's success may have been planned, but it's also debatable as to whether luck helped with today's "commercial bonanza."

It appears that small-town feel of downtown was cherished for so long because it took a while for Pleasanton to develop a hearty population.

"Timing is everything," Wainwright said.

That last part rings true when looking at the development of neighboring cities like Livermore and Dublin.

"Pleasanton benefited from being slightly off the beaten track," she said.

The bulk growth didn't take place until after World War II, but the biggest spike in population was the addition of freeways after the Federal Highway Act of 1956.

"There are still quite a number of residents who have descended from the [pioneer] families," she said. "What I've seen develop is the

character of Pleasanton, but it's because of the slow growth."

As many residents know, Pleasanton was primarily agricultural through the 1960s. In fact, what is now the Hacienda Business Park was once a swamp. Wainwright said homeowners in the Valley Trails neighborhood might want to thank the developers for helping defer the flood waters.

The biggest shock Wainwright encountered was the city's biggest gem almost kept the city from existing. The deep valley and underground

aquifer made this land very attractive to thirsty San Franciscans. They purchased the land in the 1930s with the intention of damming the valley for drinking water. Instead, they dammed Hetch-Hetchy in the Sierra Nevada, and Pleasanton acquired some of the land for the to-be-developed Bernal Park.

In all, she admits that the book is not an "extensive history, but it's a start." The focus was on development and much of her research was also dependent on local experts.

These local experts include Otis Nostrand,

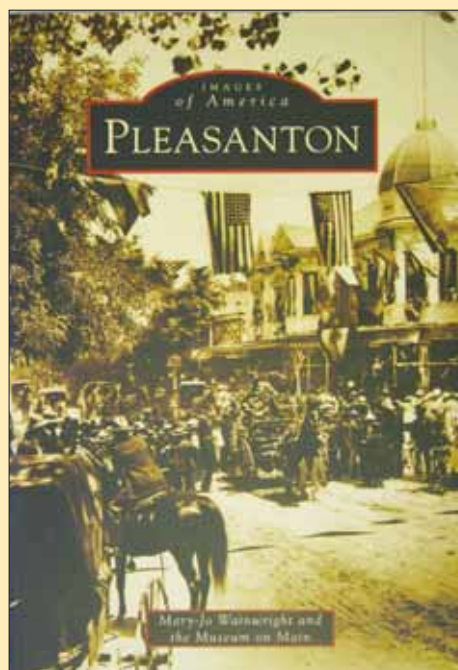
Celebrate the book launch

"Images of America: Pleasanton" will be launched at a party hosted by the Museum On Main Street at 7 p.m. Oct. 19. Wine and dessert will be served and author Mary-Jo Wainwright will give a brief talk. She will also be donating a portion of book sales to the museum.

Books can be preordered through the Museum On Main Street Web site or by calling Arcadia Publishing at 888-313-2665. They can also be purchased at the book launch party for \$21.75, including tax.

More about the author

Mary-Jo Wainwright grew up in Hayward and has lived in Pleasanton since 1991. The local historian holds a bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley and a master's degree from Cal Sate East Bay. She has taught at Las Positas College and currently teaches history at Imperial Valley College in Imperial, Calif. (about 30 minutes north of the Mexican border). She comes home to Pleasanton as much as she can to spend time with her husband and daughter.



Moove over! Cows flooded the Meadowlark drive



Courtesy Museum On Main

What is now the Pleasanton Hotel was once the Farmer's Hotel which in 1902 replaced the hotel built by John Kottinger in 1864.

owner of The Hop Yard Alehouse, who is an expert on—you guessed it—the hop fields that used to cover parts of the city; a descendant of Phoebe Apperson Hearst; and Andrew Galvan, a descendant of Ohlone Chief Tarino.

Also surprising to Wainwright was the amount of time and effort it would take to compile the information. Working closely with Terry Berry, former director of the Museum On Main Street, the book came together in six months. With over 200 images, it begins with Ohlone speaking Native Americans, looks at the addition of freeways and ends a then and now photo comparison.

Wainwright said an important part to include was the stress on survival of the Native Americans here. Many of them were killed, she said, but there are also many who survived and continue to contribute to Pleasanton's story.

Wainwright hopes the community will cherish the history found in the book.

"Especially in a place like Pleasanton, old timers and newcomers want to know about where they live," she said. "Knowing the history, they can be engaged more in what happens in the future...and they'll be far more likely to protect and preserve it."

This is Wainwright's first book. She continues to research on the Bay Area's Peralta family and hopes to gather her findings in another book. That's the end of her book writing plans, she said, but she doesn't want to rule anything out, adding, "I didn't know I'd be writing this one!" ■



Courtesy Museum On Main

in dairy in 1997 for a calendar photo.

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Opinion

Editorial

Grassroots efforts can involve elected officials, too

Planning Commission Chairwoman Anne Fox has been criticized by some in government, civic and business circles for actively and publicly co-sponsoring a petition that seeks support for an initiative to block most commercial and residential development on the vacant 124-acre Staples Ranch property at the city's far northeast corner. The land, unincorporated and owned by Alameda County, is being eyed by the county and the Pleasanton City Council for use as an auto mall, senior care and independent living complex, a public park and a four-rink ice arena to be developed by a subsidiary of the San Jose Sharks.

Fox, with her co-sponsor Matt Morrison, established a citizen's group called Friends of Pleasanton to curb the proposed development with a measure they want to place on the November 2008 ballot to preserve Staples Ranch, which they call Pleasanton's Eastern Gateway.

To qualify their measure for the ballot, they must obtain signatures from at least 10 percent of the 38,000 registered voters who voted in the 2006 General Election. Since obtaining approval to proceed with their effort, they have been working the crowds at downtown events such as First Wednesday and walking the east side neighborhoods in search of registered voters who agree with their concerns.

In the meantime, other groups, including the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce and civic organizations, have formed a counter-group called Pleasanton First, taking out newspaper ads and speaking at community meetings to encourage registered voters to "just say no" to Friends of Pleasanton. They support the planned development for Staples, which already is part of a Memorandum of Understanding between the city and county.

They argue that the city's long-negotiated plan allows for plenty of parks, sports fields and trails, and provides needed apartments and care facilities for seniors and an ice facility to serve the Tri-Valley. That would spare hockey teams and skaters the one-hour and more trips to ice rinks in other cities. The proposed auto mall appears to be acceptable to both citizens' groups, although the Morrison-Fox initiative, if it qualifies for a public vote, could push back any development to 2009.

Faced with a groundswell of criticism for working both sides of the street—chairing the Planning Commission that makes land use decisions while also leading an initiative effort that would un-do what the City Council and Alameda County are proposing—several on the council who support Fox asked City Attorney Michael Roush to determine her lobbying rights. An opinion by Attorney Liane Randolph, who until recently was the chair of the state's Fair Political Practices Commission, gives Fox—and any other appointed or elected official—the right to openly participate in discussions that may differ from established City Council, or even Planning Commission policy.

Unless there's a monetary conflict (say, Fox owned a farmhouse on Staples Ranch), she can continue to actively collect signatures and speak out in favor of the Friends of Pleasanton effort. While this is not the legal opinion those opposed to Fox or her initiative wanted, it clears the air for future campaigns by anyone choosing to seek elective office or who is already there. After all, members of Congress lobby, cajole and coax their constituents and fellow legislators all the time. We see the same persuasive techniques in Sacramento.

So now we know: a council member or planning commissioner can vote one way and move outside City Hall to urge people to support something else. As Attorney Randolph concludes: "Ms. Fox has taken a policy position against development of the (Staples Ranch) parcel. But...Staples Ranch involves significant policy determinations and Ms. Fox's desire to see the Staples Ranch property remain open is part of the public political dialogue." ■

Letters

City is frontrunner with its open space

Dear Editor,

I think it's important for Pleasanton residents to understand the open space issue being tied to Staples Ranch. The proponents of the two initiatives are stating that the issue is all about open space. I take argument with that. The only open space worthy on this property has already been earmarked for park use, which would be the southern portion of the property. The Pleasanton Parks and Recreation Commission has already determined that this park could include lighted sports fields and tennis courts, an ice facility, a bocce ball and lawn bowling area along with another dog park. And...open space.

The City of Pleasanton is a front-runner in regards to open space. We have 41 parks. In this city of planned progress, we've managed to create over 1,100 acres of city parks and recreational space, including a 103-acre sports park, the 237-acre Augustin-Bernal Park on the Pleasanton Ridge and a 425-acre municipal golf course with trails and open space. Combine that with our organized efforts working with our regional park district and we enjoy almost 5,000 acres of publicly accessible open space on Pleasanton Ridge and 266 acres at Shadow Cliffs. That's over 6,300 acres of open space! Add in protected agricultural lands and the residents of Pleasanton enjoy an approximate total of 9,347 acres of open space.

And you might wonder...is that enough...to which the answer is no! There are also plans for a 318-acre park for the Bernal property, a 17-22-acre park for Staples Ranch and another 496 acres for a natural open space park in Oak Grove. And last but not least, don't forget the 33 miles of trails in and around our town. Yes, that's open space! There are many other battles to fight for real open space; Staples Ranch isn't one of them.

*Jerry Pentin
(member of the Pleasanton Parks & Recreation Commission)*

Oktoberfest a bust

Dear Editor,

The Oktoberfest held Oct. 7 downtown should be called the October Jest. Loud rock music, a few almost empty tables for arts and crafts, two people in line for the one food booth, two people buying tickets for a glass of beer, about 10 empty tables for sitting, and did I mention very, very loud music? Not very German.

*Ed Burkart
Pleasanton*

(continued on page 15)

Guest Opinion

Oak Grove helps preserve our southeast hills forever

by Kurt Kummer

We are lucky to live in Pleasanton. Last week, our quality of life—and the lives of our children and grandchildren—became even better when the Pleasanton City Council acted to preserve our southeast hills forever by approving Oak Grove and accepting a gift of 496 acres of open space with miles of public hiking, biking and equestrian trails.

There are many who share the credit for this visionary step forward. About a decade ago, town leaders created the Pleasanton Trails Master Plan to ensure public access to our natural areas. Oak Grove carries out the Trails Master Plan with miles of local trails, a staging area and a major link in the regional trail system that will eventually connect our region's magnificent wild areas from Sunol through Callippe Preserve towards Shadow Cliffs and the Iron Horse Trail. Oak Grove will become Pleasanton's largest park. While on the Oak Grove trails, Pleasanton residents will be able to walk among the 12,000 native oak trees and encounter beautiful views of the Pleasanton Ridge, Mt. Diablo, and the Altamont Hills.

Our elected officials also deserve a lot of credit. About two years ago,

they saw the possibility of creating a wide swath of public open space in the southeast hills. Working together with the Kottinger Ranch neighbors, the landowner and parks and trails advocates, the city helped craft the "compromise" Oak Grove plan. The city receives nearly 500 acres of open space at no cost. The park is preserved forever by conservation easements held by an outside land trust. The city's southern boundary is sealed and protected by a greenbelt within city limits.

Kudos to the neighbors in Kottinger Ranch, Vintage Hills and Grey Eagle as well for their willingness to share this beautiful property with all Pleasanton residents. There are always concerns when the public is allowed into wild areas adjacent to private property. Fortunately, we have a dedicated city staff, Trails Ad



Kurt Kummer

Hoc Committee and Parks and Recreation Commission to figure out positive steps that ensure the dual goals of public access and security.

Oak Grove is a win-win. At last, our community has finality about the future of this remarkable 562-acre property. The landowner has limited development to 51 lots, or about half of what the General Plan allows, and will gift 496 acres of open space to the city. The neighbors agreed to the limited development in exchange for the opportunity to "put a border and a preserve at the south end of Pleasanton." And, the City Council set up a model for future preservation of the southeast hills.

The parks and trails community stands ready to help make this model work and carry out the vision of saving the southeast hills and creating a trail system that rings Pleasanton and links our open space areas with the incredible wildlands of the Tri-Valley area and beyond.

Kurt Kummer is a Pleasanton resident who serves on the Parks and Recreation Commission and is chairman of the Trails Ad Hoc Committee.

Letters

(continued from page 14)

Global warming a scare tactic

Breathe easy, Mr. Editor and Madame Mayor ("Mayor right in concern over global warming," Editorial, Oct. 5). The 50,000 ppm CO2 you exhale helps plants grow, conserves water and adds no risk.

The U.S.A. takes in ~385 ppm-CO2 in west winds and breathes out less ~380 ppm CO2 to the east because America's enlarging forests, crops and grass land use more CO2 than made by our combustion. Not so in China and India. So what best lessens CO2? Nuclear power plants, as they and we now promote.

History confirms that when Greenland was green, at 1,000 A.D., even Venice did not flood. Then why the hype? Tax pretext. How else can you scare taxpayers into paying even more than present 50 percent to government workers who get double our pay for the same work?

At www.oism.org/pproject find balance for selection (of a minority of glaciers shrinking and a minority of hotter times) from 17,000 of us scientists who have studied randomized data. No need for this State of Fear.

*Howard Long
M.D. M.P.H. (epidemiology)*

Developer, council fail to listen on Oak Grove

Dear Editor,

I am disheartened that our council and mayor approved the Oak Grove development. What happened to the promises made by our council and mayor when they ran for office stressing the need for

high density, green housing near the transportation corridors and no more McMansions on our ridge-lines?

Instead, they approved 51 homes, 6,000 to 12,000 square feet per home, on the ridge tops. Our General Plan specifically calls for no homes to affect ridgeline views.

They tell us that this will provide us with more "open space", yet all it provides is more cross-town traffic to get to work, school, sports, etc., more giant energy burning, water wasting homes. In the same newspaper announcing the approval of Oak Grove, there is an editorial about our mayor's concern for global warming. She sees Oak Grove as a prototype for major environmental changes. Mayor Hosterman, homes that are 6,000 to 12,000 square feet are not green or environmental!

The Lin family has been trying to develop this property for years, even though they already built Kottinger ranch. I've even heard it stated that they made an investment and have a right to further development. I beg to differ. It's an investment, and not all investments are good investments. Increased development on this property was voted down by the citizens of Pleasanton in 1993. It's time for our council and mayor to listen to the voters who put them in office. Thank you Cindy McGovern for opposing Oak Grove.

*Gail S. Olney
Pleasanton*

Talking Points

by Gina Channell-Allen



It's important to admit when wrong

When a newspaper makes an error, a correction or clarification is in order

To err is human...to accept responsibility is our practice.

We are human and therefore prone to err. Errors are normal, most times unexpected and often embarrassing and regrettable.

This is one of those common denominators of humanity we wish wasn't so common. However, as author Orlando A. Battista wrote, "An error doesn't become a mistake until you refuse to correct it."

For this reason newspapers include a box for corrections and/or clarifications. While a correction is appropriate for identifying factual errors and a clarification is appropriate for restating a phrase for better understanding, errors in judgment do not fit well in that space. And, believe it or not, even with a number of good editors looking over the pages of a newspaper, errors—factual, circumstantial and in judgment—will make it to print.

So the way we correct errors that

don't fit under the corrections/clarifications header is with something else: An apology.

The Pleasanton Weekly recently printed a statement that a group was "left in the dust" in the recent "Best of Pleasanton" contest. The writer meant nothing derogatory by the statement; it's one of those phrases commonly found in stories of a competitive nature. However, in this case, it wasn't a major league game and it wasn't on the sports pages. That understandably left a few individuals with hurt feelings.

Accuracy and fairness is of the utmost importance to us. And it is never our intention to be callous, insensitive or cause or increase harm. Therefore, every story is edited by at least two people other than the writer, first on the computer screen and then on the page proof. On the day the paper goes to press, every page is posted for everyone to look at and read through. However, consider-

ing there are on average 700 words per page, 44 pages and a host of photo captions, headlines and other tidbits, the potential for missing something is astronomical.

This, however, is not an excuse; it is an answer to why things like this happen. And the response, from me personally and from our editorial staff, is not to make light of it, or to defend it, but to apologize for it. When we are wrong, our response will be acknowledgement and reparation.

We hope you will agree with activist and author Nikki Giovanni who said, "Mistakes are a fact of life. It is the response to the error that counts."

Gina Channell-Allen, a 20-year journalism veteran, is president of the Pleasanton Weekly, publisher of the Danville Weekly and the president of the East Bay division of Embarcadero Publishing Co. Send questions to gallen@pleasanton-weekly.com.

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- PUD-55, Michael Carey and Steve Maestas Consider an application for Planned Unit Development rezoning and development plan approval to: (1) rezone an approximately 0.24 acre parcel from RM 15 (Multiple Family Residential) District and Core Area Overlay District to PUD HDR (Planned Unit Development – High Density Residential) District and Core Area Overlay District; and (2) demolish two existing residential units, renovate one existing residential unit, and construct four new single family homes for a total of five residential units at the property located at 225 West Angela Street
- Review and discussion regarding campaign finance issues, including options for contribution limits, political action committees / independent expenditure committees, voluntary expenditure limits, and contribution reporting thresholds
- Consider establishing a Railroad Quiet Zone to eliminate train horn noise in Pleasanton

Community Workshop: Home Depot/Pleasanton Gateway Shopping Center

Wednesday, October 17, 2007, at 6:30 p.m.,
200 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton.

The City of Pleasanton work group formed to respond to questions and issues regarding the proposed Home Depot/Pleasanton Gateway Shopping Center, proposed by Regency Centers, at the corner of Stanley Boulevard and Bernal Avenue is holding a second workshop to review the results of the information gathered since the last workshop on July 26, 2007.

Direct questions or comments related to this item, to Jerry Iserson, Director of Planning and Community Development, by phone at (925) 931 5600 or by e mail at jiserson@ci.pleasanton.ca.us

Housing Commission

Thursday, October 18, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Approval of the Annual Operating Budget for Ridge View Commons for 2008
- Review of Master Agreement for Services with Tri-Valley Housing Opportunity Center

GENERAL INFORMATION

Employment Opportunity

- Youth Sports Official – Basketball(Part-time, Temporary)
\$9.57 - \$11.63 per hour (depending upon experience) Open Until Filled
- The Youth and Adult Sports program seeks several part-time Recreation Aides to work as youth sports officials at the Harvest Park, Hart, and Pleasanton Middle School Gymnasiums
- The Position: Under direction of the Recreation Supervisors, Youth Sports Officials will officiate selected basketball games in the Pleasanton Youth Basketball (PYB) program. Basketball players are in grades 1-12.
For more information or to apply for this position, please contact IAN Anderson, Recreation Supervisor at (925) 931-3447.

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

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

Community Pulse

Police Bulletin

Bicyclist seriously injured after collision with truck

A bicyclist was seriously injured when he was struck by a pickup truck traveling eastbound on Stoneridge Drive, according to police.

The accident, which occurred at 8:25 a.m. Oct. 4, left the 56-year-old man, who is from Livermore, with eight broken ribs, a collapsed lung, brain hemorrhaging, two broken teeth and multiple face lacerations, said Sgt. Michael Collins.

Police say the bicyclist was crossing northbound across Stoneridge Drive from Johnson Court to Johnson Drive when he was struck by the full-size pickup truck, estimated to be going 35 mph.

The speed limit in that area is 45 mph, Collins said. The impact sent the cyclist 100 feet. He was treated at the scene by Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department personnel and transported to Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley, where he was listed in stable condition.

The bicyclist was wearing a helmet and his bicycle was properly equipped, police said. The driver of the pickup truck, also a Pleasanton resident and his male passenger, were not injured. The truck only received moderate front-end damage. The accident is under investigation and no fault has been determined, Collins said. Anyone who witnessed the incident is asked to call police at 931-5100.

Police Report

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

Sept. 29

- Theft:
-8:23 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive
- Vandalism:
-9:01 a.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive; worth less than \$400
- Public drunkenness:
-2:53 p.m. in the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue
-5:05 p.m. in the 300 block of Saint Mary Street
-6:06 p.m. in the 5000 block of Pleasanton Avenue

Sept. 30

- Grand theft:
-4:55 p.m. in the 5700 block of Owens Drive
- Vehicular burglary:
-8:29 a.m. 4000 block of Graham Street
- Public drunkenness:
-1:46 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road
-2:43 a.m. in the 5300 block of Case Avenue

Oct. 1

- Theft:
-7:49 a.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive; grand theft
-12:25 p.m. in the 3600 block of Cambridge Court
-3:23 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive
- Public drunkenness:
-11:33 a.m. in the 7200 block of South Valley Trails Drive
- Trespassing:
-11:33 a.m. in the 7200 block of South Valley Trails Drive
- Lost property:
-11:51 p.m. in the 4700 block of Orangewood Court

Oct. 2

- Theft:
-6:55 a.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive; stolen vehicle
-11:22 a.m. in the 4300 block of First Street
-3:21 p.m. in the 4300 block of Rosewood Drive; stolen vehicle
-4:43 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Vehicular burglary:
-7:28 a.m. in the 7000 block of Trotter Way
-8:16 a.m. in the 2400 block of Tapestry Way
-12:47 p.m. in the 3000 block of Bolero Court

•Drug/alcohol violations:

- 1:55 a.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle; public drunkenness
- 2:10 p.m. in the 800 block of Main Street; paraphernalia possession, controlled substance possession

•Tampering with a vehicle:

- 3:36 p.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road

Oct. 3

- Stolen vehicles:
-6:45 a.m. in the 2400 block of Tapestry Way
-1:47 a.m. in the 7500 block of Stonedale Drive
- Vandalism:
-8:23 a.m. in the 900 block of Main Street; worth less than \$400
- Vehicular burglary:
-7:05 a.m. in the 1200 block of Vintner Way
-8:56 a.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road
-3:50 p.m. in the 900 block of Crellin Road
-4:02 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
-6:05 p.m. in the 3200 block of Burgundy Court

Oct. 4

- Theft:
-7:01 p.m. in the 4200 block of First Street
- Burglary:
-11:56 p.m. in the 6600 block of Owens Drive
- Drug/alcohol violations:
-4:35 p.m. in the 600 block of Happy Valley Road; under the influence of a controlled substance
-9:29 p.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road
- Exhibiting deadly weapon:
-9:29 p.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road

Oct. 5

- Theft:
-10:52 a.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road; petty theft
-2:51 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft

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Transitions

Obituaries

Vera Emma Carr

Vera Carr died Sept. 28 in Pleasanton at the age of 88.

Mrs. Carr was born Sept. 7, 1919 in Middletown, Ohio and made her home there and in Monroe, Ohio for 81 years. She moved to Pleasanton seven years ago to be near her family.

Mrs. Carr furthered her education at business and secretarial school, working several years at Armco Steel and 15 years with the Middletown School District. She played the cello for 15 years in the Middletown Symphony Orchestra and other ensembles. She also mastered the piano. She was an accomplished enameller and porcelain painter, and enjoyed needlepoint.

Other interests were reading, traveling extensively in Europe, and she was an avid Wedgewood and antique collector.

Mrs. Carr is survived by her loving family: son Gary Edward Carr; daughters-in-law Ann Carr and Patti Carr. She also leaves behind adored grandchildren Rebecca Carr, Natalie Carr and Kristen Carr.

She was preceded in death by her loving parents Alma Schirmeyer and Albert Schirmeyer; beloved husband of 38 years, W. Gordon Carr; and son W. Leonard Carr. A memorial service was held Oct. 4 at Valley Community Church in Pleasanton. Burial will follow at North Cemetery in Monroe, Ohio.

Bonnie Witham

Bonnie Witham died Sept. 27 at the age of 80.

A 50-year resident of Pleasanton and Fremont, Mrs. Witham was a longtime employee of Castlewood Country Club. She lived her 80 years to the fullest and has now gone to join her husband, parents and five brothers and sisters.

She is survived by her two children, Janet and Keith; three grandchildren, Casey, Denise and Jill; great-grandchild Nikki and great-great-grandchild Myrna. She was much loved and will be missed by all of her family and friends.

Services are private, but donations to Hope Hospice in Dublin in her memory will be gratefully accepted.

Donald Joseph Cordes

Donald Joseph Cordes died Oct. 5 in Roseville, Calif. at the age of 71.

Mr. Cordes was born Dec. 16, 1935 in San Francisco. He was a retired sergeant for the Alameda County Sheriff's Department. He received his Bachelor of Arts in criminal justice from the University

of San Francisco.

Mr. Cordes loved to travel, going to Hawaii and going on trips with his RV clubs and sandrailing with his son Mark. He was an amazing man and lived his life full of integrity and generosity with a huge heart that will be missed by family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his beloved first wife of 32 years Gale Cordes and survived by his loving children, Tim Cordes, Cheri Brown, Mark Cordes and Sandy Everatt; adored grandchildren, Jamie Valencia and Tony Hendry. He was also preceded in death by his second beloved wife Betty Wiley and his brothers Charles (Charlie) and Eddie Cordes.

Visitation and a service were held Oct. 12 with burial following at St. Augustine's Cemetery in Pleasanton.

Ernest William Bernard

Ernest William Bernard died Sept. 30. He was 89.

Mr. Bernard was born Jan. 1, 1918 in Niles and moved to Pleasanton as a young boy. He graduated from Amador Valley High School and served in the U.S. Army during World War II. Mr. Bernard also started the first Boys & Girls Club in Pleasanton. He retired 25 years ago from Lone Star.

He is survived by his wife Joni; daughter and son-in-law Margery and Frank Bupp of Las Vegas; son and daughter-in-law William and Stephanie Bernard of Las Vegas; brother and sister-in-law Alvin and Vicki Bernard; two grandsons Craig and wife Peggy of Las Vegas and William Bernard Jr. of Byron, Calif.; four great-granddaughters Amy, Carrie and Lauren Bupp and Brittany Bernard; and many nieces and nephews.

A mass was held Oct. 4 at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Pleasanton and burial followed in St. Augustine's Cemetery, also in Pleasanton.

Weddings



Lisa Ann Longbrake and Blaine Nadeau

Lisa Ann Longbrake and Blaine Nadeau were married Aug. 11 in The Fountain Community Church in Pleasanton. A reception followed at the Dublin Senior Center.

Lisa is the daughter of Gary Longbrake of Pleasanton and Denise Briggs of San Leandro. She is a 2006 graduate of John Muir Charter School in San Jose.

Blaine Nadeau is the son of Elaine and Edward Nadeau of Dublin. He graduated from Dublin High School in 2000.

The couple honeymooned in Hawaii. They reside in Pleasanton.

Births

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

Sept. 13

James and Virginia Garber, a girl

Sept. 19

Paul and Katie Lance, a boy



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to our Best Of Pleasanton 2007 winners!

Alberto's Cantina	Best Mexican Food
Big O Tires	Best Tire Store / Service Center
Blondies Shoes	Best Manicure / Pedicure
Blue Agave Club	Best Place to Have a First Date Best Atmosphere Best Margarita Best Outdoor Dining
CA Stampin'	Best Hobby / Craft Store
Callippe Preserve	Best Golf Course
Cardinal Jewelers	Best Jewelry Store
Clover Creek	Best Home Furnishings
Cosmo's Custom Barber	Best Hair Salon for Men
Domus of Pleasanton	Best Place to Buy a Gift Best Place to Buy Cookware
Downtown Yoga	Best Yoga / Pilates
East Bay BMW	Best Auto Dealership
Essence Medespa	Best Medical Spa
Fontina	Best Main Street Restaurant
Fusion 3 Salon Spa	Best Hair Salon for Women
Girasole Grill	Best Italian Restaurant
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The Wine Steward	Best Wine Store
Three Dog Bakery	Best Pet Store
Towne Center Books	Best Bookstore
Workbench TrueValue Hardware	Best Hardware Store
Wente Vineyards	Best Winery

Calendar

Auditions

Youth Orchestra Auditions YOSAC (Youth Orchestra of Southern Alameda County) offers several levels of string instruction leading to an advanced full orchestra. String, brass, wind (except sax) and percussion are all welcome to audition. If available, students must be enrolled in a school music program. Weekly rehearsals. Call 510-483-1163 or visit www.yosac.org.

Author Visits

Century House Reading From 2 to 4 p.m. Oct. 14 at the Century House, 2401 Santa Rita Road, the Century House Reading will feature poets Armand Brint, Ukiah, California's first Poet Laureate, and Jan Steckel, an award-winning writer of both poetry and prose. The cost is \$5 or free to students with an ID. Call 931-5350 or visit www.civcartsliterary.org.

The Reluctant Atheist Lawrence Bush, artist, activist and author of *Waiting for God: The Spiritual Explorations of a Reluctant Atheist*, will speak at 10 a.m. Oct. 13 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. *Waiting for God* is a challenging book of ideas for believers and non-believers alike. Sponsored by Tri-Valley Cultural Jews. Call 846-8826 or visit Tri-ValleyCulturalJews.org.

County Transportation Forum The Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA) and its Citizens Advisory Committee present an East County Transportation forum focusing on upcoming major transportation projects from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 18 at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. These projects are funded through local tax dollars, and state, federal and other funds.

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

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

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

Planning Commission The Planning Commission meets at 7 p.m. the

second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

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

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

Book Clubs

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

Civic Meetings

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

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Classes

Basic Yoga Class Every Monday at 6:30 p.m. Beth Fox, certified yoga instructor, will teach a yoga basics class in Lynnewood United Methodist Church's multipurpose room, 4444 Black Ave. The class is \$10, open to the public and is appropriate for all levels of experience. Call 846-0221 or visit www.lynnwood.org.

Clubs

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

Amador Valley Quilters This month we welcome quilt teacher and author Peggy Martin, who will present her "Quick Strip Paper Piecing" lecture from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Oct. 13 at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Peggy will conduct her "Millennium Star" workshop the following day. Visit www.amadorvalleyquilters.org.

Award-winning Author to Speak The public is invited to hear award-winning producer Jack Cashill, author of "What's the Matter with California?" address a combined meeting of the Republican Women's Clubs of Contra Costa County from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 16 at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. Tickets are \$25. Call 837-6253 or visit www.srvrwf.org.

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

California Writer's Club Plot and story consultant Martha Alderson, author of *Blockbuster Plots Pure & Simple*, will discuss her unique line of plot tools for writers and strategies for demystifying the structure of storytelling at the regular meeting Oct. 20. It will be held at 11:30 a.m. at Oasis Grill, 780 Main St. The cost is \$20 for members or \$25 for non-members. Call Kathy, 296-0447.

Everything Poetry This poetry work-group meets from 9 to 11 a.m. the first Saturday of the month to critique poetry and the third Saturday for a workshop pertaining to an aspect of poetry business at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Bring 10 copies of a poem.

Good News Bears Be a part of providing comfort to children and adults by giving stuffed animals. Good News Bears meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Livermore Police Station, 1110 S. Livermore Ave. Join us on the third Thursday of the month to see how



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tasting fine wine, micro-brews and culinary creations from over 50 local establishments at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 18 at ClubSport of San Ramon, 350 Bollinger Canyon Lane. Tickets are \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door. Call 242-0600.

Annual ArtWalk 2007 The Annual ArtWalk will transform Livermore into a fine arts district, bringing over 150 artists and their works into downtown businesses. Fine arts from photography to paintings to sculpture will be displayed from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 13 on First Street, with wine tasting from Livermore wineries, and folk musicians. Maps available. Call 243-0424 or visit www.tvag.org.

Antique Faire From 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 14 downtown Pleasanton hosts an antique faire with more than 4000 professional dealers. Visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

Fall Jamboree Hoedown The Fountain hosts a Fall Jamboree Hoedown from 6 to 8 p.m. Oct. 28 at 4455 Stoneridge Drive. The event includes games, prizes, entertainment, a jump house, food, panning for gold and a petting zoo. Western costumes are welcome. Tickets are \$5; pre-school and under free. Call 600-8182 or visit www.fountaincc.org.

Ghost Walks in Downtown Pleasanton "Ghost Walk" featuring the legends of the Downtown Pleasanton haunted buildings are every half hour from 5 to 8:30 p.m., Oct. 12-13. Each tour is about one and a half hours. Reservations necessary. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 5-12. Call 462-2766 or visit museumonmain.org.

International Food Fair The International Food Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 13 at The

ARK, 4100 First St. Free admission; all proceeds to benefit World Hunger. The event features food booths, cooking demonstrations, kids jump houses and crafts, and live entertainment. The ARK is a collaboration of churches. Call 413-2166 or visit www.livingvine-fellowship.com.

Operation: S.A.M. Holiday Drives for Military Annual Holiday Drives, sponsored by Operation: S.A.M. "Supporting All Military," will be held at Pleasanton Wal-Mart, 4501 Rosewood Drive, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 20 and Livermore Wal-Mart, 2700 Las Positas Road, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 13. The drives will collect goodies, cards and letters for troops. Call 989-3990 or visit www.operationsam.org.

Pleasanton History Book Launch Party A new photo-filled book on Pleasanton history, "Images

of America--Pleasanton," will be launched at 7 p.m. Oct. 19 at the Museum On Main Street, 603 Main St. Wine and dessert will be served and author Mary-Jo Wainwright will be giving a brief talk. Visit museumonmain.org.

Exhibits

The Essential Landscape An exhibit, "The Essential Landscape: A Tribute to Nature's Bounty and Beauty" will be presented at the grand opening of Deer Ridge Vineyards, 1828 Wetmore Road, Livermore. The exhibit runs Aug. 30 to Oct. 28 with a wine and cheese reception from 4 to 6 p.m. Sept. 29. The exhibit features two prominent California oil painters, Stephen Sanfilippo and Tom Taneyhill. Call curator Shelley Barry, 683-4804.

Fundraisers

Cook for A Cause In October, GourMade Cookery, 7060 Koll Center Parkway, Ste. 320, will be donating five percent of sales of every Cook for A Cause menu item sold. To register for a session or place an order visit www.gourmadecookery.com or call 846-4774.

Hart Middle School Rummage Sale Stop by Hart Middle School from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 20 to see what treasures can be found at the school's annual rummage sale. Hart's families have donated gently used items for this fundraiser for the Parent-Faculty Association. Proceeds benefit students programs and supplies.

Hoofprints on the Heart Hoedown Hoofprints on the Heart Adaptive Riding Center hosts a hoedown at Cedar Mountain Winery, 7000 Tesla Road, Livermore, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Oct. 20. Tickets are \$40 and proceeds will go towards program expenses, horse board and client scholarships. Call Peggy James, 455-9460.

Hope Sees a Star Memorial Auction ZNEart.com presents the Hope Sees a Star Fundraising Auction, online at www.HopeSeesaStar.com from Oct. 1-15. The international group of independent artists plans to create a permanent installation in memory of two local teenage girls, Stevie McMoyler and Brianna Grant, who died from fatal diseases in April and June, respectively. Call 249-0979.

The Mother Bear Project Knit This, Purl That owner Beth Spisak has a goal of sending 100 teddy bears to needy children by December. She seeks knitters and crocheters who want to participate by purchasing an inexpensive pattern from The Mother Bear Project and completing a bear by December. The first meeting will take place at 7 p.m. Aug. 8 at 205A Main St. Call 249-9276 or visit www.yourknittingplace.com.

Thomas Hart Middle School Rummage Sale Donations Save your gently used clothes, household items, furniture, etc. and donate them to this annual tradition. Bring donations to the Thomas Hart Middle School multipurpose room from 3 to 6 p.m. Oct. 19. Tax deduction credit given. The Rummage Sale pays for many needed programs. Call 846-0329.

Health

Body Fat Testing How fat or fit are you? Find out with the highly accurate hydrostatic body fat testing done in the privacy of a mobile testing vehicle from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 14 at Cyclepath, 337-B Main St. Receive an accurate body fat measurement, metabolic rate and a four page customized report. Bring a bathing suit and towel. The cost is \$49. Call 485-3218.

Body Intelligence From 4:30 to 6 p.m. Oct. 18, Dr. Richard Richman, chiropractor, kinesiologist and holistic health specialist, will present demonstrations and exercises on how to use body awareness techniques to foster health. It will be held at World School of Massage, 699 Peters Ave. Call 461-2533.

East Bay Essential Tremor Did you know that essential tremor is the most common movement disorder with tremors of the hands and head? Dr. Robin Fross, movement disorder specialist, will discuss essential tremor, causes and treatments from 10 a.m. to noon Oct. 15 at San Ramon Regional Hospital, 6001 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. Public is welcome. Seating is limited. Call 487-5706. Pre-registration advised.

Foot Freedom World School of Massage will offer a free seminar for the general public from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Oct. 25 at 699 Peters Ave. The school presents Foot Freedom: A Free 90-Minute Foot Health Clinic. Attendees will learn daily self-care and specialized foot self-massage techniques. Call 461-2533.



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Public Flu Shot Clinic Sutter VNA and Hospice nurses will be administering flu shots to children ages 9-13 (with a doctor's note/prescription) and 13-18 (with parental permission), adults and seniors from 9:30 a.m. to noon Oct. 14 at Presbyterian Church of Pleasanton, 4300 Mirador Drive. Shots are \$25 each. Call 800-500-2400 or visit www.suttervna.org.

Self-Help Massage Techniques World School of Massage and Holistic Healing Arts, 699 Peters Ave., will offer a free seminar from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Oct. 17. Lymph Loving! is a workshop about the physiology and techniques for the body's most important recycling system. Call 461-2533.

Stroke and Osteoporosis Screening Stroke and osteoporosis screening will be available starting at 9 a.m. Oct. 19 at Pleasanton Community Church, 4455 Stoneridge Drive. For pricing and to schedule an

appointment, call 800-697-9721 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com.

Holiday

Party Planning for the Holidays

Get a head start on the holiday season with party planning tips from caterer and event planner Barbara Llewellyn and noted designer and author Ron Morgan host a holiday-themed cooking demonstration, entertaining tips and an edible centerpiece how-to, from 10 a.m. to noon Oct. 23 at the Alameda County Community Food Bank, 7900 Edgewater Drive, Oakland. Tickets are \$20 plus a canned food donation. Includes tour and breakfast. Visit www.accfb.org.

Lectures/Workshops

"Rail Wars" Lecture At 7 p.m. Oct. 18 at the Museum On Main Street, 603 Main St., train enthusiast Chris Rizzoli will talk about the forces that brought the two transcontinental rail lines to the valley and the competition between them. Tickets are \$5 or \$10. Call 462-2766 or visit museumonmain.org.

Children's Ministry Magazine Live Workshop This practical, hands-on, day of training will be held from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Oct. 20 at Cornerstone Fellowship, 348 North Canyons Pkwy., Livermore. Take home ideas to create the place where kids want to be, so they grow deep in their relationship with Jesus. The cost is \$45. Call 447-3465 or visit www.group.com/cmml.

End-of-Life Community Training

Hope Hospice hosts the Hospice Community Training Course, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Mondays from Sept. 10 to Oct. 29. This 8-week, evening course is for those who want to learn about end-of-life care. It is designed for future hospice volunteers and CEU's are available for health professionals. The cost is \$75 general; \$120 with CEUs. Call 829-8770 or visit www.hopehospice.com.

First Time Home Buyer Seminar

A free educational first-time home buyer seminar will be held Oct. 15 in San Ramon. Free buyer checklists, mortgage tips and refreshments are provided. Learn about the benefits of home ownership and qualification. Call 586-0429 or visit www.idreamrealty.com.

Hammett, Hellman and the HUAC

Michael Shepler discusses Dashiell Hammett's transition from Pinkerton

detective to mystery writer/novelist to Hollywood scriptwriter at 2 p.m. Oct. 13 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call 931-3405.

Nutrition and Cancer Treatment

Learn what to eat (even when you don't feel like it) and ways to effectively hydrate at this free workshop, at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 18 at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Find out how to establish nutritional goals during and after cancer treatment, and how foods play a role in maintaining and regaining health. Call 933-0107 or visit www.twc-bayarea.org.

Preparing and Presenting the Business Plan

Techventures presents a free workshop on business plans from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Oct. 17 at the Carr America Conference Center, 4400 Rosewood Drive. Preparing and Presenting the Business Plan takes the entrepreneur step through the process of developing and writing a business plan. Call 960-1600 or visit www.techventures.org.

Retire with Confidence Dinner Seminar

Sterlent Credit Union invites you to attend a free "Retire with Confidence" dinner seminar at 7 p.m. Oct. 16 at 5121 Hopyard Road. Topics to be covered: Helpful strategies for tax diversification for your retirement, learn how to protect the longevity of your retirement and more. Call 242-3059.

So You Googled an Employee, Now what?

From 9 a.m. to noon Oct. 23 at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin, learn the rules of the Internet: What employers can and cannot do about employees' use of the Internet to talk about themselves and their jobs. Tickets are \$105 for NCHRA members or \$145 for non-members. Call 415-291-1992 or visit www.nchra.org.

Top Productivity Secrets for You and Your Office

Las Positas Community College, 3303 Collier Canyon Road, Livermore, presents productivity tips to save an hour a day-- guaranteed from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Nov. 3. Class and text are \$69. Call 424-1467.

Live Music

Chris Bradley's Jazz Band Chris Bradley's Jazz Band plays live at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St., every second and fourth Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. No cover charge.

Music Event at Artwalk 2007 An full day of live acoustic music will be part of Livermore's ArtWalk 2007 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 13 at the flag-pole, First and N. Livermore streets, Livermore. Visit www.tvag.org.

Miscellaneous

Free The Cat Campaign For a limited time, Tri-Valley Animal Rescue will offer no-fee adoptions of all adult cats. Strict adoption criteria will still apply. Adoptions are held at Pleasanton Farmers Market (9:30 to 1 p.m. Saturdays), Dublin Pet Food Express (2 to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays) and Dublin PetSmart (weekdays during regular business hours and noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays). Call 803-7043 or visit www.tvag.org.

Kittens Seek Foster Homes The East Bay SPCA's Foster Care Program seeks foster homes for the upcoming kitten season. For more information, contact the East Bay SPCA at (510) 563-4632 or visit www.eastbayspca.org/foster.

On Stage

Bohemians in Livermore Livermore Valley Opera presents La Boheme by Giacomo Puccini, his opera about two young bohemians in love, at Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Show times: 8 p.m. on October 20, 21, 26, 27, and 28.

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Diabetes Scores now in range of 85 to 120 Using Only the Laser

Also in February I had diabetes test blood scores of 250 to 260 each morning. I started lasering my pancreas and my scores have gone down to a range of 85 to 120. I now use only the laser to control my blood sugar levels. Since I have started using the laser I have experienced several other healings.

— Ben Gieringer

TO REGISTER OR FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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Dr. Lytle's book - Healing Light - the Energy Medicine of the Future

Sunday matinées: 2 p.m. Enjoy dinner and a live stage production in downtown Livermore. Tickets are \$30-55. Call 373-6800 or visit www.livermorevalleyopera.com.

Role Players production Ruthless the Musical Ruthless! The musical by Joel Paley and Marvin Laird, directed by John Maio, musical direction by Joe Simiele, parodies The Bad Seed, Gypsy and others Thursday-Sunday Oct. 12-Nov. 3. Tickets are available at www.villageheatreshows.com; Danville Community Center 420 Front St., Danville; and 314-3400.

Seniors

Computer Tutoring One-on-one computer tutoring is available every day at the Pleasanton Senior Center. The tutor works with you on topics where you need help. No formal program to follow, just help where you need it. Internet, Office applications, picture editing, etc. Call 931-5365 to set up an appointment. The cost is \$1.50 for residents and \$2 for non-residents.

Dublin Senior Center Extends Hours Live at the Senior Center! It's Wednesday Night! Do you yoga? Have a question about computers? Enjoy playing games? Sign the interest list and we will try to organize new activities on Wednesday nights at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley

Blvd. Starting Sept. 12, the Senior Center will extend its Wednesday hours to 8 p.m. Call 556-4511.

Ghost Walk and Dinner Meet at the Pleasanton Senior Center for a lasagna dinner Oct. 12. We will take Paratransit downtown and be led on a guided Ghost Walk Tour of Downtown Pleasanton. Paratransit will then give us a ride back to the Senior Center. Tickets are \$25 for residents or \$28 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

Gujarati Dinner Tri Valley Gujarati Seniors holds monthly meetings with varied themes. Interested Gujarati Seniors are welcome to attend as guests. For additional information, call 846-3521. 6:30-9:30 p.m. None

PC Users Group The PC User Group meets monthly at 10 a.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. You don't need to be an expert

to attend, we have all skills levels in our meetings. The usual Senior Center charges apply. The cost is \$1.50 or \$2.00.

Transitions Support Group Are you or someone you know: 60 or older and living in Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore or Sunol? Looking for a warm and supportive environment to connect with others? In need of a place to share, support and reminisce? Join the Transitions Support Group meeting 2:30 to 4 p.m. every Wednesday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call 931-5379 for info.

Spiritual

Care for the World St. Clare's Episcopal Church Chancel Choir presents this inspirational festival service

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focusing on the environment and our responsibility as stewards of God's creation at 5:15 p.m. Oct. 14 at 3350 Hopyard Road. Published by the Royal School of Church Music. Call 462-4802.

Peace Meditation A one-hour silent meditation on peace will take place on the second Saturday of the month

at Downtown Yoga, 220B Division St. No talking--just sitting. No political affiliation or religious denomination. Free to all. Call 819-9983.

Tri-Valley Unity Church Tri-Valley Unity Church meets at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Sunday service and children's school at 10 a.m. Ongoing classes and

groups. All are welcome. Rev. Mary Anne Harris, minister. Call 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

Worship Service The Fountain Community Church, 4455 Stoneridge Drive, holds a worship service at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday. It's a place to connect with God and people. Upbeat contemporary worship and

challenging messages. Call 600-8182 or visit www.fountaincc.org.

Sports

Lake Chabot Mountain Ride Join cyclists of all levels for this friendly, no-drop mountain ride at 6 p.m. every Tuesday in October. Meet the Cyclepath group at the Ranger station. Most rides last approximately two hours. Riders should be in good fitness; have a well-adjusted, safe mountain bike (with a light); and general knowledge of bike handling skills. Call 485-3218.

Sunday Morning Group Ride Join cyclists of all levels for this friendly, no-drop ride. Routes vary weekly (25-55 miles) and last approximately two hours. We meet at 8:30 a.m. at Cyclepath, 337-B Main St., to determine our route and fill tires for a 9:00 a.m. departure. Riders warm up together and split into smaller groups based on skill level. Call 485-3218.

Support Groups

Cancer Support Group A free support group for people with cancer and their loved ones. Facilitated by The Wellness Community. The group meets from 2 to 4 p.m. every Tuesday at the Valley Care Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd. Call 933-0107 or visit www.twc-bayarea.org.

ClutterLess Self Help Group Is clutter stressing you out? We are a Self Help support group for those with difficulty disposing of stuff. Cluttering is a psychological issue, not just an organizing issue. The group meets Mondays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Pleasanton Presbyterian Church Rm. 7, 4300 Mirador Drive. Call 846-5060 or visit www.clutterless.org. The group is free and \$2 to \$5 donation appreciated.

Volunteering

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

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

TV30

In a Word Join hosts Jim Ott and Kathy Cordova during the month of October with Lisa See, author of Peony in Love. Bookclub discussion of The Maltese Falcon with guests and authors Hailey Lind and Mark Coggins. On Channel 30 every day at 6:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m., and 3 p.m. weekdays. Sponsored by Towne Center Books.

Let's Talk Sports TV30's George "Dr. B" Baljevich Special: Boxing from King's Gym with Andre Ward, Olympic Gold Medalist and undefeated as a professional will air on Channel 30 weekdays at 11:30 a.m., 2 and 6 p.m., and Fri. and Sat. at 4 p.m.



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TownSquare

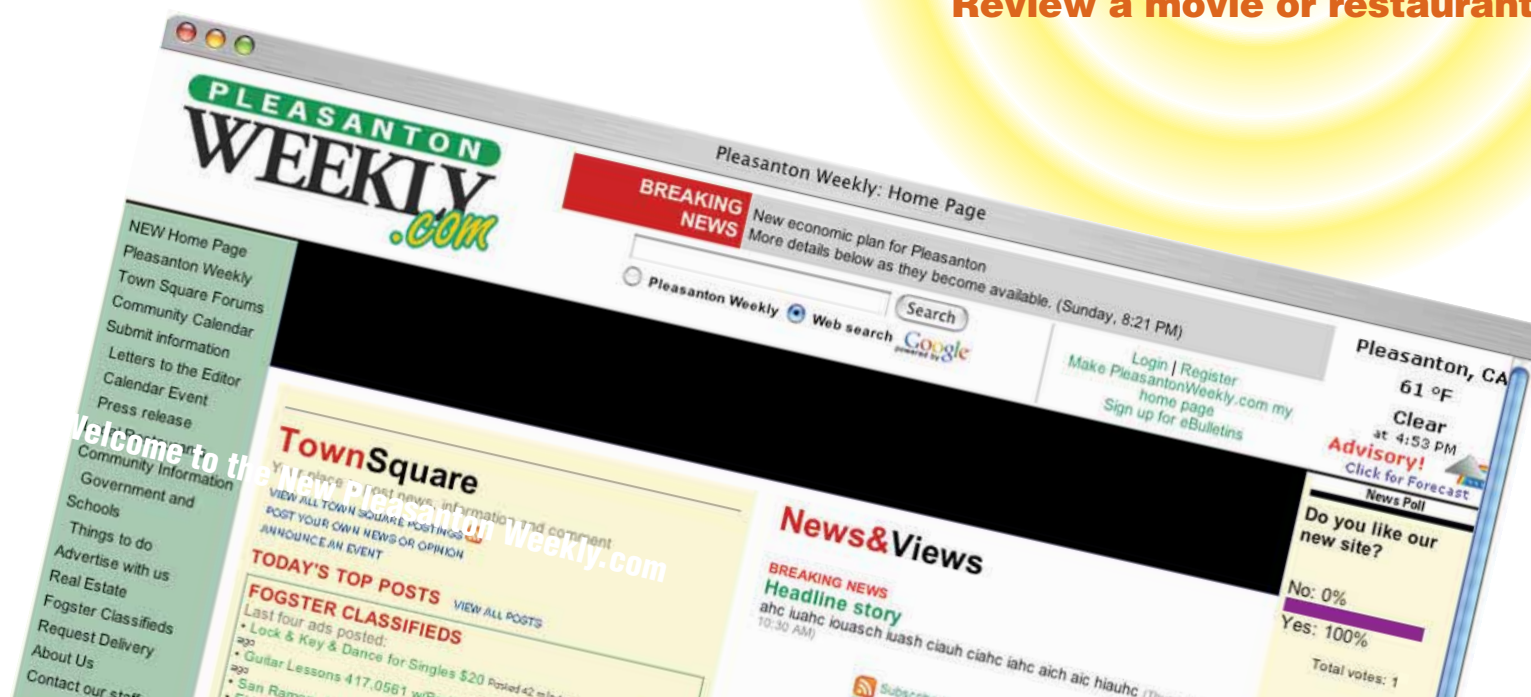
An online forum to

Discuss Community Issues

Ask other readers for advice

Report a sports score

Review a movie or restaurant



The screenshot shows the Pleasanton Weekly website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like 'NEW Home Page', 'Pleasanton Weekly', 'Town Square Forums', 'Community Calendar', 'Submit information', 'Letters to the Editor', 'Calendar Event', 'Press release', 'Government and Community Information', 'Schools', 'Things to do', 'Advertise with us', 'Real Estate', 'Fogster Classifieds', 'Request Delivery', 'About Us', and 'Contact our staff'. The main content area features a 'TownSquare' forum section with a 'Welcome to the New Pleasanton Weekly.com' message, a 'News & Views' section with a 'BREAKING NEWS' headline about a new economic plan for Pleasanton, and a 'Today's Top Posts' section listing 'FOGSTER CLASSIFIEDS'. A sidebar on the right shows the weather in Pleasanton, CA (61°F), a 'Clear' advisory, and a poll asking 'Do you like our new site?' with a 'Yes: 100%' result.