

# PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Vol. VIII, Number 9 • March 23, 2007

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It's all about Pleasanton

## Givin' it a Shot

**The San Jose  
Sharks propose a  
four-rink ice center  
at Staples Ranch**  
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# Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

## Soccer balls, jerseys for the poor kids in Paarl

Like many other local real estate agents, Otto Catrina often makes lifelong friends of his clients whose homes he's sold or helped them to buy. But few Realtors become so attached to clients that they travel with them to Cape Town to help get them settled in a small town a 40-mile drive away. Catrina just returned from that trip where he found suitable housing for Laura Taylor and two of her sons, Joey, 15, and Sammy, 13, and made sure they were registered for classes at the local public school. They're back now, but in August the Taylor boys will leave again to join their mother for five years in Paarl, where she is working with the Monte Christo Ministries in the AIDS and HIV devastated community.

As a board member at Crosswinds Church, Catrina was friends with Tynyn (Ty) Taylor, a minister there, and his wife Laura and their four sons, Travis, now 23, Tylan, 21, and Joey and Sammy. Having heard from Monte Christo of the need for on-site assistance, the Taylors decided to sell their home and furniture and take an assignment somewhere in Africa. First, though, Ty, who was 46, made the trip himself, stopping first in Paarl, video camera in hand, to shoot a documentary for Crosswinds and also to determine where the family should settle. He never got beyond Paarl where, in a freak accident just outside the city, he was struck by a piece of falling granite that killed him in an instant.

Back home, as the family mourned, Catrina helped Laura and the boys resettle out of their now-sold home. He was so amazed and impressed by Laura's determination to pick up where her husband had left off—in Paarl—that he decided to join her on the trip over, taking supplies suggested by Monte Christo that included 150 deflated soccer balls and eight sets of jerseys. He also rounded up several church friends and business associates to make the trip, including Pleasanton barber Frank Moreno and his wife Cindy, San Ramon mortgage broker Bill Simpson and

firefighter Mark Tait. With \$13,000 in cash gifts from fellow members of the Pleasanton-based Valley Marketing Association, the group went to Paarl, where for the next few weeks they helped paint school buildings, worked with orphanages and handed out the soccer balls and jerseys that more than 1,000 kids hoped to get their hands on. After all, Catrina points out, the World Cup heads for Cape Town in 2010 and Paarl, like other South African cities, has its share of wannabe stars.

Although not tied to a particular Christian denomination, Catrina found that Monte Christo has a spiritual focus that helps keep the many poor of Paarl out of gangs and decently clothed. Many also have no fathers, who either died of AIDS or left the area, and some still live in orphanages even as teenagers with no other place to go. With spotty electricity and no running water in the shantytowns, kids from the poor neighborhoods thrive on sports. Monte Christo has helped build one large recreation arena and the city is funding a large soccer complex that will have five indoor soccer fields.

Catrina said he became involved in quasi-missionary work after seeing rock star Bono being interviewed, telling his audience that he uses his status and influence to affect other people's lives in a positive way. A successful real estate broker who counts on 80 percent of his business in handling home sales and purchases in Pleasanton, Catrina is with O'Laughlin Realty and Investments of Castro Valley. He just completed his course training to become a certified mediator, a skill that enables him to negotiate disputes among real estate agents or with their clients. He plans to use the training on his next trip to Paarl when he negotiates with the fiercely competitive soccer teams over who will get some of the dozens of new soccer balls and jerseys he plans to take along. To learn more about Laura Taylor and her work in Paarl or to add a few more soccer balls for Otto Catrina's next trip, email him at [www.ocatrina@aol.com](mailto:www.ocatrina@aol.com).

### About the Cover

The San Jose Sharks' proposed ice center at Staples Ranch Community Park site would provide skaters and hockey players—like Jr. Sharks' 6 year-old Claire Peterson who has been playing hockey since she was 4—an additional place to skate with the ice time in the Bay Area in high demand. Photo courtesy Alan DeClerck. Cover by Shannon Corey.

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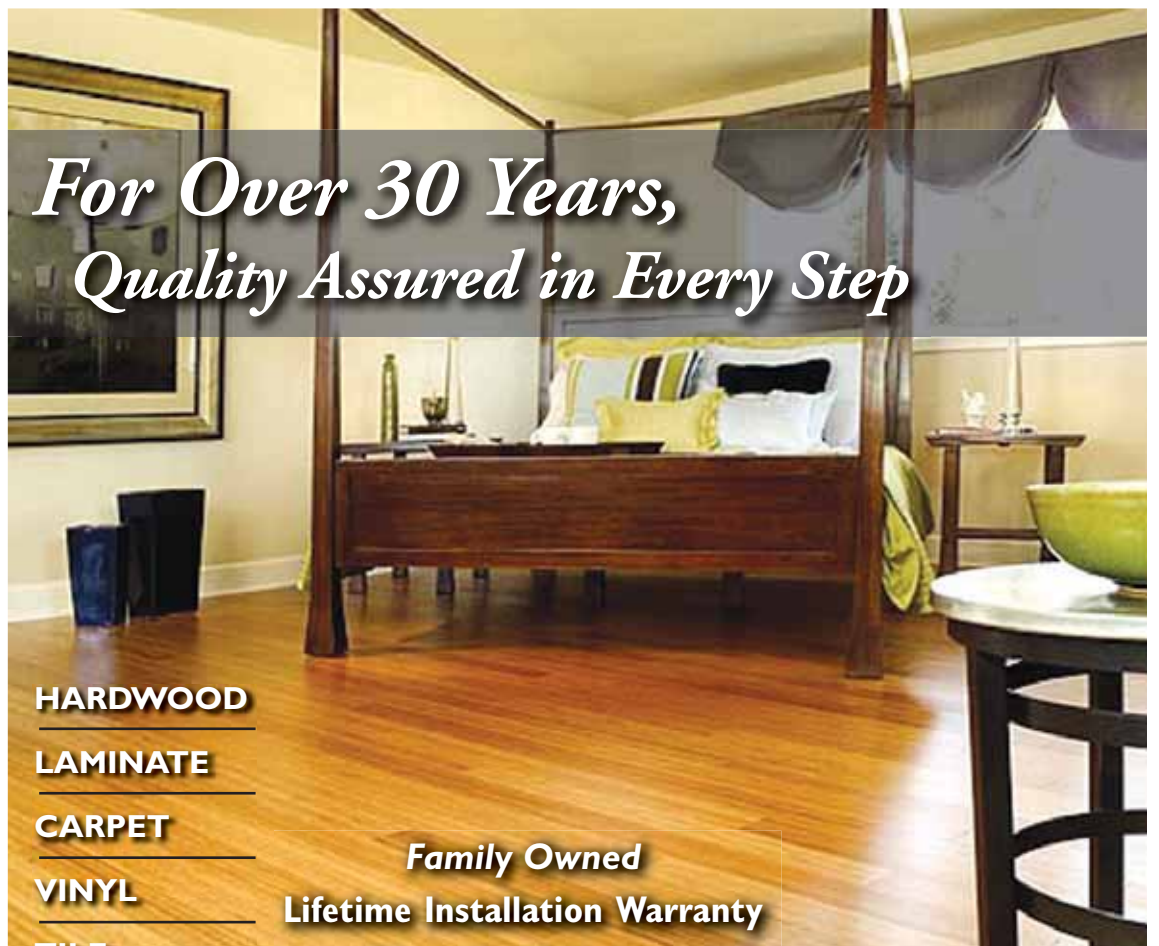
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# Streetwise

## Q: Should California raise speed limits on rural interstate highways?

Asked Downtown



**Elizabeth Mokalla-Spencer**  
Wedding Planner

No. My family travels to the Central Valley to visit family often. I feel people already drive over the speed limit hitting 75-80 mph. Raising the speed limit legally, I'm afraid people might begin driving at 95, even 100 mph.

### Arellys Farnsworth

Real Estate Agent

I disagree with that idea. As it is, people exceed the limits now. During the holidays people may be driving and drinking and abuse the fact that they can drive faster. Most people obey the speed limits I'm sure, but for those that don't this will encourage them to drive even faster.



### Dennis Hall

Landscaper

I don't think it's a very good idea. I'm a motorcycle rider. Some of those rural highways are dangerous enough without raising the speed limits.



### Joanna Caujolle

Telecom Industry

I don't like the idea—too many chances for messy accidents. People already drive faster out on those interstate highways. Why encourage them to go even faster?



### Michael Spencer

Homebuilder

I think they should change the speed limits. I believe in letting people have a lot more personal responsibility. If the state raises the limits, hopefully people will follow the law and act accordingly.

## COLON HEALTH FREE EDUCATION SEMINAR



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Sundeep Nayak, MD  
Radiologist

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**Time:** 6:30PM

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Have a Streetwise question? E-mail: [editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:editor@PleasantonWeekly.com)  
Compiled by Cybele Ryan

# Newsfront

## News Digest

### Downtown sidewalk sale

Pleasanton is celebrating the arrival of spring with a sidewalk sale, sponsored by the Pleasanton Downtown Association. Shops and businesses will display the latest inventory—everything from fashion, home decor and more—from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 7. For details, visit [www.pleasantondowntown.net](http://www.pleasantondowntown.net).

### Stop using coercion

Amador Valley Adult Education is offering a parent education class from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. March 28. The class, "Stop Using Coercion and Do Something That Really Works," is taught by Tom Dozier, owner and primary instructor for Guaranteed Parent Training. In this class, parents of children of all ages will learn: how to stop yelling, nagging and questioning; what the eight common parenting traps are; what to do when a child misbehaves; and what to do when a child behaves well, so that good behavior will increase. To register call 426-4280.

### Host a SJ Giant in your home

Every year approximately 25 young men in the San Francisco Giants Minor League System move to San Jose for the summer to play for the SJ Giants. From April 2 through Sept. 4 will ballplayers continue to hone their baseball skills playing 140 regular season games. Families also get special perks through the season. To learn more, contact Linda Pereira at (408) 297-1435 ext. 19.

### Pleasanton Hotel entertainment

The Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St., is hosting several free events from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. in the month of March, including The Fabulous Cruisetonas on March 23. Call 846-8106 or visit [www.PleasantonHotel.com](http://www.PleasantonHotel.com) for details and other performers.

### 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](mailto:editor@PleasantonWeekly.com)

## Services set tomorrow for school leader Juanita Haugen

*Speakers to include educators from community, state, national organizations*

by Jeb Bing

For those planning to attend the 1 p.m. memorial funeral at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church Saturday for former school board president Juanita Haugen, her family urges patience and extra time to reach the church

As many as 1,000 are expected

to attend the service, to be held in a church that seats 800 and with a parking lot that can accommodate less than 300 cars. Special arrangements have been made so that funeral participants can park at Hart Middle School, where a reception will be held after the service. Shuttle service will be provided between Hart and St. Elizabeth Seton starting at 11:30 a.m. and immediately following the service.

Mrs. Haugen, who died March 5 at age 69, will be honored by the community she has called home

since 1970 as well as by educators and representatives of state, regional and national school and education groups from around the country. These will include remarks by E. Jane Gallucci, president of the National School Boards Association in Washington, D.C., Kerry Clegg, past president of the California School Boards Association, and John Casey, Pleasanton school superintendent.

Her four daughters, Heather Rizzoli, Heidi Peart, Hilary Haugen and Holly Morello, will do a series



of one-liners, called "What Mom Taught Us."

The Pleasanton Police Department will provide a motorcycle escort for the family from Mrs. Haugen's home in Vintage

(continued on page 8)

## Neighbors win appeal against Trinity church

*Council votes 3-2 to overturn Planning Commission OK*

It's back to the drawing board for Trinity Lutheran Church after the City Council Tuesday night sided with 24 neighbors who objected to an expansion project that they believe would add to traffic in their community.

Instead of adopting a church-designed plan that had been approved 4-0 by the Planning Commission in January, the council voted 3-2 on a plan recently drawn

by City Manager Nelson Fialho and his staff that would meet the neighbors' concerns. That plan, if the church goes forward with its \$2.3-million expansion project, would divert traffic increases expected on the Golden Road side to Del Valle Parkway, where another parking lot entrance would now lead to a much-expanded parking lot.

The city's plan also calls for the church to construct a 25-foot-wide, two-way thoroughfare from the Del Valle entrance along the back of the church and its popular Sunshine

(continued on page 9)

## Gearheads come to fairgrounds this weekend

*Goodguys celebrates silver anniversary*

by Janet Pelletier

The group is not nearly as old as the classic cars it showcases, but Northern California's oldest automobile festival is celebrating a milestone—its 25th anniversary. The Pleasanton-based Goodguys

Rod and Custom Association will host the 25th annual Goodguys All American Get-Together tomorrow and Sunday at the fairgrounds.

In the driver's seat of the operation are father and son, Gary Meadors,

(continued on page 7)



Otis, a Labrador mix, plays with a ball at the Muirwood Community Park dog exercise area. Dogs of all breeds and sizes play in the dog exercise area at Muirwood Community Park, the only dog park in Pleasanton.

## Every dog has his day

*As city opens play area for smaller dogs, it looks to expand park land for them citywide*

by Rebecca Guyon

Muirwood Community Park, the site of the only dog park in Pleasanton, recently opened a new addition—a "small dog-only" section. Set off on the north end of the park, which is on Muirwood Drive north of West Las Positas, Boulevard, it is only open to dogs 20 pounds or less.

Although larger dogs are not allowed in that area, small dogs are still welcome to play in the large dog area, said city landscape architect Mike Fulford.

The idea for a separate section came after hearing concerns in the community that people with small dogs are afraid to use the dog park, said Parks and Recreation

Commissioner Kurt Kummer.

"It's a great addition to the dog park exercise area we already had," Kummer said. "I'd never seen a lot of small dogs at the dog exercise area, so I didn't think there was a need, but then when I talked to more people, many said they didn't use it because they were scared of the big dogs."

Despite an initial push for the new section and a warm reception when it was first created, it hasn't received much use since, Fulford said.

Pleasanton resident Betty Fontes regularly brings her 39-pound dog Josie to the Muirwood dog park,

(continued on page 10)



Gary Meadors (left) and Marc Meadors (right) pose with the signature Goodguys car, a 1932 Ford tu-door sedan. The 25th annual Goodguys All American Get-Together will be held this weekend.

## Foothill finalist in renowned band competition

*One in 12 shot to play at the Monterey Jazz Festival*

The Foothill High School band is one of 12 high school bands chosen from across the country to compete in the big band competition at this year's Next Generation Festival, a program associated with the Monterey Jazz Festival. The band will perform 9 a.m. March 24 in the Serra Ballroom at the Monterey Conference Center and 10:30 a.m. at Fisherman's Wharf on the same day.

Each band will have 15 minutes to perform and show their skills with pieces they have chosen. A sight reading session will also determine the outcome of the high school competition, as sight reading is a skill revered by professional musicians. Only three of the 12 high school big band finalists will advance to the final round, with the winning group earning the chance to perform on the Arena Stage at the Monterey Jazz Festival. The

jazz festival, celebrating its 50th anniversary, is scheduled for Sept. 21 to 23.

A record number of bands applied to be part of the competition and only 40 made the final cut, competing in a variety of categories including college and middle school level big band competitions and vocal and combo ensemble. Next Generation finalists are selected through recorded auditions that are judged by faculty from the Berklee College of Music. In order to be eligible to apply, a band must have received a "superior" ranking at another competition. Out of the dozens that apply in each category, only the top 12 or top six, depending on the category, make it to the finals. Foothill made the top 12 out of all the high school applicants.

—Rebecca Guyon

## Amador junior attorneys head to their day in court

*Mock trial team representing Alameda County at state competition this weekend*

Students from the Mock Trial Honors Club at Amador Valley High School have mastered the county level of the Alameda County section of the Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF) National Mock Trial Competition, taking first place March 1.

But the case is not closed yet. Now they will compete in the State Competition held today through Sunday at the Alameda County Superior Court, 1225 Fallon St. in Oakland.

Amador Valley students participating as trial attorneys in this year's competition are: Olga Beltzar, Vivienne Chen, William Chen,

Aliya Deri, Udani Kadurugamuwa, Uggi Lee, Rishi Mukhopadhy, Jeysree Ramachandran, Reyhaneh Rajabzadeh, Brian Sherman, Neeti Upadhye, Sai Wusirika, Chelsea Xu, Stephen Zhang.

The Amador Valley team is coached by Melinda Garcia, Esq. of Garcia Law Group in Pleasanton, Tod Gurney, Esq. of Hopkins Carley of San Jose, and Steve Sherman of Hoge Fenton Jones and Appel. Garcia and Gurney, who are husband and wife, have coached the team for five years and will retire as the Amador attorney coaches at the end of this year's competition.

Each year, CRF creates and produces a new set of Mock Trial materials based on an important issue facing America's youth. The materials include a hypothetical criminal case (including summaries of case law, witness statements, official exhibits, and simplified rules of evidence); lesson plans on the central issues in the case; and competition rules and guidelines. The competition is judged by actual judges from Alameda County Superior Court. Local attorneys serve as attorney judges.

"The students were selected for the team after mandatory participation in a four-week trial 'boot camp,'" Garcia said. "They worked extremely hard and learned evidence rules very well. We are very, very proud of them."

The CRF Mock Trial program was created to help students acquire a working knowledge of our judicial system, develop analytical abilities and communication skills, and gain an understanding of their obligations and responsibilities as participating members of our society. The program currently involves 36 California counties.

The Amador Valley team has been preparing since September while teams from some other schools attend Mock Trial as a full-year class. The Mock Trial Honors Club is funded entirely by the students through candy and water sales and by donations from area law firms. For more information, go to [www.crf-usa.org](http://www.crf-usa.org).

—Emily Atwood

Alameda County Office of Education, Pleasanton Unified School District, Pleasanton Police Department, and Amador Valley Adult & Community Education Present:

## A Town Hall Meeting to **Start the conversation...** About Adolescent Drinking, Drug and Tobacco Use in Our Community



## **We all need to know ...**

- 32% of 11th graders in Pleasanton have used marijuana
- 23% of 11th graders have engaged in "binge" drinking in the past 30 days
- 24% of 11th graders have been in a car with a driver under the influence

(California Healthy Kids Survey Data, 2005)

## **It's up to all of us...**

**Come hear local experts, youth, and your neighbors discuss these issues, how they affect us all, and what we, as a community, can do.**

Guest Speaker: **Ralph Cantor**, Coordinator, Safe & Drug-Free Schools Program, Alameda County Office of Education

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**To RSVP or for more information, please call Amador Valley Adult School at: (925) 426-4280.**



# Health fair for seniors

Ridge View Commons hosts fair tomorrow

From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. tomorrow, seniors will be able to get a wealth of information on how to stay safe in their homes all in one place. That's because senior living community Ridge View Commons will be hosting a senior resource health fair in the complex's dining room featuring more than 20 different vendors.

The vendors will range from assisted living facilities such as the Parkview, which was recently built on Sunol Boulevard next to the Senior Center, medical and pharmaceutical suppliers to vendors offering emergency response systems, hearing aids, personal financial organization, in-home care, independent housing and hospice.

"It's a good place for people to just go, mill around the different tables and find out what the services are," said Carole Brekke of Ridge View. "If you have these services that are appropriate to what your situation is, it will help you stay safe in your home as opposed to moving to a higher level of care."

Brekke said it's difficult for seniors living independently to have to move. Services such as those at the fair help them maintain their independent lifestyle.

"As people age, they don't want to have to pack up and move somewhere else, but oftentimes they don't know what the resources are that could help them stay in their home," she said. "If they've gotten a little more frail or just don't want to do things—housecleaning and things like that—they can hire someone to do that. If they are concerned about falling or have a bit of a balancing problem, then an emergency response system would be beneficial to them."

The event is free and open to the public. A raffle will be held and refreshments will be provided. Ridge View Commons is located at 4200 Case Ave.

—Janet Pelletier



## Coins for cats, dollars for dogs

When Valley View Elementary fifth-grader Kaitlyn Glover heard animals being cared for by the Valley Humane Society would be moved into a temporary facility while awaiting a more permanent one in a few years, she wanted to help fund the endeavor. So, "Coins for Cats" and "Dollars for Dogs" was born. Along with fellow fifth-grader and vice president (Kaitlyn is president), the pair rallied other students in Mr. Palassou's fifth grade class to bring in spare change. All in all, \$450 was raised.

## Goodguys

(continued from page 5)

67, and Marc Meadors, 39.

Born in Dinuba in the Central Valley, Gary said he inherited his father's love of cars. His first car was a '47 cherry Plymouth coupe that he purchased for \$400 in 1954. In 1983, Goodguys Rod and Custom Association was created.

Since then, Goodguys grew from showing 400 cars (made in 1957 or earlier) at the first "Get-Together" at the fairgrounds in 1983 to attracting more than 3,000 cars for this weekend's show. Goodguys now has 70,000 members across the nation and abroad.

"It's kind of hard to believe it's the 25th Get-Together," Gary said. "My whole goal was to get people to start the hobby."

Many locals have fond memories of Goodguys car shows over the years, native Pleasanton resident Rich Guasco.

"I worked the very first one they had at the fairgrounds," he said. It's done for the car business what Microsoft or Mac has done for computers. It put it in everybody's hand."

Guasco will show three of his cars at this year's show, including a '40 Ford, a '32 coupe and a '22 roadster.

Goodguys' popularity and

growing membership is mainly due to its ability to bring people together who share a common love of cars.

"It's a big social thing and I'm really interested in cars—I have been my whole life. My dad owned a wrecking yard on Old Santa Rita Road," Guasco said. "It's a chance for a guy like me to go see everyone's cars because they come in from all over the country."

While Gary said he still plans to stay as involved as he's always been, he decided to hand the torch to his son. This year, Marc has taken over the reigns of the major operations at Goodguys as president.

"He's just letting off the gas and I'm just getting into gear," Marc said jokingly.

This weekend's event, held tomorrow from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., will feature hot rods, custom cars, classics, trucks, muscle cars and street machines, an automotive swap meet, cars for sale corral and manufacturer's exhibits, including Goodguys' official auto parts store Napa Auto Parts. Napa representatives will showcase the company's Chip Foose-designed Chevy S-10 truck, which was built on Foose's popular cable TV show "Overhaulin'."

For more information, visit [www.goodguys.com](http://www.goodguys.com).

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## Celebrating the 'Magic of Music'

*Black tie event benefits Amador bands*

Amador Valley High School's third annual "Magic of Music" fundraising event, happening March 31 at the Pleasanton Hilton.

The event benefits the school's three concert bands, two jazz bands, winter percussion and colorguard, which consists of more than 200 members and has doubled in size over the past seven years. Funds raised will go toward replacing instruments and uniforms.

A black tie event, the evening will include a seated dinner with wine, live and silent auctions, a "Shake it Up" Martini Bar and dancing to the sounds of the Amador jazz bands.

Tickets are \$75. Call Paulette Callahan, 846-8957 to purchase. Those interested in making a donation may call Bill Brown, 846-9706. Call Event Chair Dianne Jones, 426-5662 or Band Director Jon Grantham, 462-6196 for more information.

—Rebecca Guyon

## Haugen

(continued from page 5)

Hills to the church, where the Rev. Ron Culmer, rector of St. Clare's Episcopal Church, where Mrs. Haugen was a member, will officiate.

The church service will begin and end with a special procession that will include a police and fire color guard. Choirs from St. Clare's and Foothill High School also will sing during the service, and a brass ensemble from St. Clare's is scheduled to play "When the Saints Go Marching In" during the recessional.

Both the Pleasanton school district and the California School



## Rock star in the making

Two-year-old Connor Minkin of Pleasanton got a chance to come up on stage with Dan Nichols and his Jewish rock band Dan Nichols & E18hteen when they performed to a large crowd last Saturday at Congregation Beth Emek. Nichols, who is also a cantorial soloist at congregations in North Carolina and Tennessee, has fronted bands that have performed with Hootie and the Blowfish and Ben Folds Five. E18hteen's co-founder Mason Cooper has written and produced television and film themes and been involved in the careers of George Michael, Bernie Taupin and Stevie Wonder.

Congregation Beth Emek

Employees Association will provide tables, chairs and kitchen and parking lot monitors to assist in the service and reception. Closed-circuit television sets will be available for those unable to find seats in the main sanctuary.

Mrs. Haugen was first elected to the old Amador Valley Joint Union High School District board in 1979. Following the school district unification in 1988, she continued her service with the new board, and was the longest serving board member at the time of her death.

Besides her four daughters, she is survived by their husbands Christopher Rizzoli, Bruce Peart and Mark Morello, and grandson Giovanni Sebastian Morello, who was born last Jan. 5. Daughter

Hilary is engaged to be married in July to Jeffrey Dito of San Francisco. Mrs. Haugen's husband Gil died in 1990.

In lieu of flowers and gifts, the family asks that donations and memorials be made to any of the following organizations which Mrs. Haugen supported: St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588; University of Southern California East Bay Alumni Club Scholarship Fund, c/o Chris Anderson, Treas., PO BOX 300, Orinda, CA 94563; Juanita Haugen Community of Character Scholarship, care of Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation (PPIE), 333 Division St., Pleasanton, CA 94566. ■



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# Trinity

(continued from page 5)

Preschool toward Golden Road, where a new lot would be built that would only be accessible from Del Valle.

The change, which was supported by Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and council members Matt Sullivan and Cheryl Cook-Kallio, would require the church to modify its architectural drawings and could

meals for the hungry on Fridays.

"This new plan is not my dream plan, but it will keep the primary burden of traffic to Trinity off Golden Road," said Heather Brillhart, who lives on Golden Road.

She filed the appeal of the Planning Commission's approval of the project on behalf of her neighbors, contending that the parking lot proposal was incompatible with the neighborhood.

Several speakers also criticized

growth of its congregation and made the church a favorite center for concerts, Scout meetings and other public meetings.

Council members Jerry Thorne and Cindy McGovern voted against the substitute design drafted by city staff. Thorne questioned the safety and alignment of the plan that calls for a long, narrow street to extend from Del Valle to Golden behind the church and along its border with a public park and a nearby community swimming pool.

McGovern said the city's plan would result in much of the green space that now exists along the park to be paved over for parking. She also questioned the risks of church-goers having to make U-turns on Del Valle to enter the expanded church parking lot since a median barrier prevents turns from both sides of Del Valle into the church.

The city's Principal Planner Donna Decker, who is pinch-hitting for Planning Director Jerry Iserson who is away on an extended leave of absence, said a new cut could be made in the Del Valle barrier to allow access for motorists from either direction. ■

—by Jeb Bing



Neighbors won their appeal against Trinity Lutheran Church on Hopyard Road.

add to the project's costs. However, the three agreed that the church can continue to use its old modular classroom buildings until its new education center is completed, a one-story permanent facility that will serve the Sonshine school and church Sunday school classes.

Although the change was reluctantly accepted by neighbors, they won special conditions as part of the council approval—to prohibit any pedestrian crossing from Golden Road to the church property except along the existing driveway and to make this the last expansion project for the church. None of the neighbors asked that the expansion project be stopped, with some saying their own children had attended preschool classes at Trinity and others praising the community outreach programs the church sponsors, including Open Heart Kitchen

the church for poor communications, saying that the expansion plans could have moved through the city approval process more smoothly if the church had worked with the neighborhood first.

"I was invited to a neighborhood meeting on this project a year ago," said Rick Altman of Harvest Road. "Even though I am not directly affected by traffic from the church, I thought I would go see what was being considered. Wow! Was I naive? I thought I would hear concepts and here was the church with a slide show presentation of what they had already decided to do. The church people were also not receptive to suggestions from their neighbors."

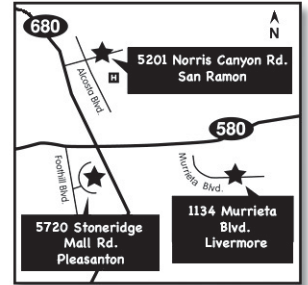
Others, however, praised the church for its community involvement and vibrant ministry, which they said has brought a four-fold



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Presentation Skills	7/23-7/27	8/6-8/10
Computer Booster	7/30-8/3	8/13-8/17

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**Dog Park**

(continued from page 5)

but has not noticed anyone using the small dog area.

"I don't use it because Josie is too big, but a lot of others haven't been using it either," Fontes said. "Most will bring their little ones in the big area since there's really no one else over there and they want to get them used to other dogs."

The addition is just one part of an overall vision for increasing the number of dog parks in Pleasanton with a goal of having one in each quadrant of the city, Kummer said. Although nothing is official yet, the city is looking into turning an area of Creekside Park (on West Las Positas Boulevard near Owens Drive) into a dog park and part of the conceptual plan for Staples Ranch includes a dog park area, Fulford said. Before proceeding with plans for the Creekside dog park, the city will hold a neighborhood meeting to get community input in the next few months, but no date is set yet. There is also talk of putting one on the Bernal property as plans for its use continues, he added.

"There are a number of parks in Pleasanton and we think Creekside might be one that has areas that are underutilized," Fulford said. "The success of a park is how well it's used and we want to make sure all our parks are really successful."

The unique thing about dog parks is that they can fit into odd shaped areas, making use of space

that may otherwise go to waste, Kummer added.

Kummer said four would be plenty, even necessary, to fill the need.

"I live pretty close to Muirwood Park and I talk to people there and I find people are driving from all over Pleasanton to get there," Kummer said. "There are even people from Dublin and San Ramon. People are driving a long distance and staff would say it's one of the most utilized park areas there."

Fulford recently returned from a seminar on dog parks led by the former Park Superintendent of Portland Jim Carr. In Portland, 14 of the city's 256 parks are for dogs, a ratio slightly higher than Pleasanton which currently has one dog park out of 32 neighborhood parks. At the seminar, Fulford learned about maintenance and new technology in dog park construction, such as new synthetic turf that allows drainage into a sub-surface to keep odor down, while also being softer than wood chips on dogs' paws.

Fulford said he plans to consider these new design elements.

"There are so many dog owners in town and as the whole nature of people's dwelling habits have changed—yards are smaller and the days when you could let your dog off leash and run in the neighborhood are gone—we need places where dogs can get good exercise. Dog owners are citizens of Pleasanton too, and they need a place." ■

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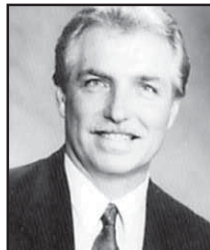
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Jack and Polly Maready read the Weekly during a family trip to the White Villages of Spain.



Keeping in touch

Gina and Fred Poff read the Weekly after attending a 24-member family reunion in Valmaggione, Italy. Gina's parents were born in Valmaggione and moved to America in 1929.



What a good daughter

Lisa Stephens and Danny Gurston read the Weekly during a trip to Venice, Italy, where the two joined Lisa's parents, who were celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary.



San Francisco treat

Even San Francisco was just too far for Mark McLaughlin to go without his Weekly. Here he reads the paper at a San Francisco Giants game while friend Rachel Donald takes the photo.



Weekly shakes it up

Pleasanton resident Erin Roush reads the Weekly with her fellow cast members of "Gonna Shake it Up," performed at Hershey Park in Hershey, Penn.

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# Opinion

## Editorial

### New board may offer chance to settle 4-year-long suit

Pleasanton school board and City Council members held their once-a-year informal workshop this week, a chance to discuss together issues of mutual concern, such as behavioral problems among teenagers, efforts to update the city's 1996 General Plan and benefits of additional jointly funded projects that can be used both by the schools and the community, such as lighted tennis courts at Pleasanton Middle School and new soccer fields at Donlon Elementary. After the two hours of reports, the two boards parted company for another year.

But what wasn't discussed was any effort by both sides to resolve a four-year-old legal battle by the city and school district against Signature Properties and Standard Pacific homes that has so far cost taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars. The feud grew nastier by the day in 2003 and later, and is now set to go to trial. Already, more than 30 individuals have given depositions at considerable cost to taxpayers and to Signature and Standard Pacific, including flying in former Deputy Superintendent Buster McCurtain from his retirement home near Tulsa. At issue—or at least it was the issue back in 2001—is who pays the costs to build Neal Elementary School in the Vineyard Corridor. At one time, the cost was estimated at \$8.5 million and the school district thought it had an agreement that Signature and Standard Pacific would advance the money to build the school, with the builders to be reimbursed during the next few years through fees developers would be paying to build houses in the corridor. It became more complicated after John Casey became superintendent of schools in 2002 and discovered, in his own analysis, that Neal would cost \$13.5 million, not \$8.5 million as it has had been estimated, to build. He said an agreement which Signature and Standard Pacific had signed committed them to pay out of pocket any additional costs in excess of the \$8.5 million. Preposterous, was Signature's response, and the two builders filed suit asking for judicial clarification of the agreements they signed in 2001. Other legal action followed, including personal charges of fraud and deceit by the school district and city against Jim Ghielmetti, president and chief executive officer of Signature, and Jim McKeehan, Signature's Vice President. Those charges were later dropped, but not before more tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars and legal fees by Signature's outside law firm were billed to handle demurs, counter-claims and other matters in Alameda County Superior Court, where the case is still pending.

In the meantime, the City Council and school board have held numerous closed door, secret meetings on this legal entanglement with no public accountability. The case was supposed to go to trial earlier this month, but has been delayed for another settlement conference next Tuesday. If no movement towards a settlement occurs, the case could move to the courtroom of Superior Court Judge John Tigar late this spring. Lost in the argument is the fact that elementary school enrollment has leveled off and is likely to drop. The need for a 10th elementary school—Neal—has probably gone away, or, if another school is built, it probably should be placed in Hacienda Business Park where more new homes are planned. No one on the City Council today was in office when the suits were first filed and only two—trustees Pat Kernan and Kris Weaver—were on the school board during these early disputes. That may be a blessing as decision time nears on what to do with an aging, often bitter series of legal battles that should be ended before more tax dollars are spent. After all, one of the points made last Monday by school board and council members was that both sides need more money and may ask voters to approve special taxes later this year or in 2008. Just think how \$1 million not spent on an unnecessary legal fight might help. ■

# Letters

## Support troops through Fisher House

Dear Editor,

Ours is a nation bitterly divided over the war in Iraq, yet steadfast in our support to our fighting forces.

We support our troops in various ways one of the most direct and effective methods is by contributing to a charity that is devoted to the welfare of disabled veterans and their families.

One of the very best is the Fisher House Foundation, which has earned the highest rating possible by multiple philanthropic watchdog groups.

The Fisher House program is a private/public partnership originated in 1990 to support America's military in their time of need. The non profit has built 37 "comfort homes" for families of patients under care at major military and veterans administration centers. Each house provides eight to 21 suites serving as a temporary residence for up to 42 family members, with more houses planned.

All are built on military or VA medical center grounds and are gifted to the U.S. government. Each home-away-from-home is within walking distance or with available transportation to the medical facility.

There are no room fees at Fisher. Houses created by the Department of Veterans Affairs and fees for rooms at other facilities are paid by Fisher House. Annually the program serves 8500 families the average occupancy rate is 90 percent.

These war victims and their families have suffered unspeakable hardships. Some, tragically at the hands of our own government. As

we are finding out. They deserve better and we can help. Interested? Contact: Fisher House Foundation Inc., 1401 Rockville Pike, Ste. 600, Rockville, MD 20852. Toll free 888-294-8560 or email info@fisherhouse.org.

Janet Linfoot  
Pleasanton

## General plan drafters had good foresight

Dear Editor,

Nancy Allen of stoppleasantongridlock.com made a number of good points in her March 9 Guest Opinion ("2nd Home Depot not a good fit for Bernal-Stanley corner"). I applaud and strongly encourage their group to work for improvements at Stanley Boulevard and Bernal Avenue, as well as the crisis corner of Santa Rita Road and Valley Avenue.

However, Allen did make one basic inaccurate statement in her Guest Opinion. She stated that "Pleasanton's strategy of keeping commercial traffic on the perimeter of the City and out of our neighborhoods has been the guiding presence of our General Plan for more than a decade."

Let us be accurate and give credit where credit is due. The strategy of employment centers and major retail near the freeways was conceived by the original General Plan committee in 1964—some 43 years ago. All of us who have moved to Pleasanton since 1965 should be grateful to those far-minded 100 citizens, out of 8,000 residents, who conceived our original General Plan.

Brad Hirst  
Pleasanton

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# Givin' it a Shot

## The San Jose Sharks propose a four-rink ice center at Staples Ranch

by Emily Atwood

**A**lthough it's far from the coast, Pleasanton's Staples Ranch may soon be a hotbed for shark activity. Sharks ice hockey, that is.

The professional team won't be practicing in town, but a San Jose Sharks affiliate recently proposed the idea of building an ice rink facility on 8 acres of the 17-acre Staples Ranch Community Park site, which is located at the corner of Interstate 580 and El Charro Road in eastern Pleasanton.

The proposed Sharks facility would be on land reserved for city parks use and would neighbor a future 1.4-million-square-foot senior living community and a 300,000-square-foot auto mall and retail center. The entire Staples Ranch site is owned by the Alameda County Surplus Property Authority and has yet to be annexed to the city. And while the debate over whether to extend Stoneridge Drive lives on, the development doesn't require a road extension, nor are any cut-through streets planned at this time.

The proposed ice complex would serve anyone from the drop-in figure skater to the diehard hockey player and everyone in between. Designed for individuals, families and groups, it would be an active form of entertainment for both.

The center is practically a duplicate of the affiliate's Logitech Ice in San Jose, which houses four rinks, locker rooms, a sports restaurant and bar, pro shop, seating and snack area.

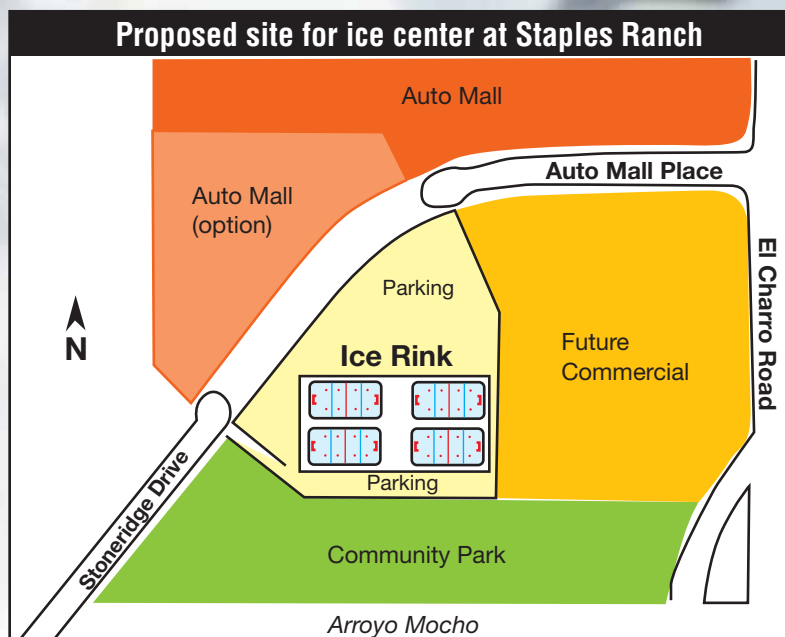
More than 2,300 adults, high school students and children participate in hockey leagues at the complex, and it also claims to have the largest figure skating program in the Bay Area.

"The second largest [San Jose Sharks] season ticket holder is from the Pleasanton area," Sharks representative Jon Gustafson said. "There's also a large potential for skating and youth hockey."

The facility would offer ice skating and hockey classes for youth, adults and people with special needs. Gustafson said they will also offer curling and broomball, with space for birthday parties and special events.



Players like 11 year-old Kelsey Corcoran, a member of the San Jose Jr Sharks commutes from Livermore for practices and games every weekend. A rink closer to home would mean more time on the ice and less in the car.



In order to gauge interest in the facility, the Pleasanton Parks and Recreation Commission held a workshop March 1 where community members could give suggestions for the Staples Ranch park site.

### If you build it...

City Councilman Jerry Thorne first brought the idea of a Sharks center to the attention of the council last October. He didn't know the amount of interest that existed in Pleasanton.

"I didn't realize there was one needed until I started talking with people who play," he said. "I met a lot of people who ice skate and there

are a bunch of people participating. They're crammed into various rinks around the Bay Area and we do have a need for something like that in the Valley."

As evidenced by those wearing teal and black Sharks jerseys at the workshop, the idea of an ice rink in Pleasanton brings joy into the hearts of young hockey players and figure skaters.

Nine-year-old Chase Preston, a fourth-grader at Vintage Hills Elementary School, plays hockey for the Tri-Valley Blue Devils. He told the Parks and Recreation Commission that a lack of ice facilities in the area means he often has to practice at Dublin Iceland at 6 a.m. on weekends. With a desire to play in the National Hockey League by age 18, his family will often go to great lengths for practice. In order to attend a recent 20-minute skating lesson in San Jose, he had to get out of school early because traffic meant the round trip would take two hours.

"If you build it, they will come," he said.

While he also plays soccer and baseball, 9-year-old Nick Powers, another member of the Blue Devils, thinks Pleasanton needs a hockey rink more than grass fields. The closest ice facility is in Dublin, yet the rink isn't regulation size or lined for hockey and doesn't have penalty boxes.

Kevin's mother Patty said they have always been a hockey family and would love to see the proposed

facility come to town. Her husband also plays, but reservations are so full in Dublin that he can only play during the summer months after 10 p.m.

"To have a bigger rink would mean that so many more kids would learn about hockey and have space," Patty Powers said. "It's good, clean family fun that's exercise as opposed to going and sitting at the movies. It's a reasonable cost in our own backyard."

Another reason Powers thinks Pleasanton should support the ice facility is because of the wide range of people who could use it.

"An ice rink can be used 16 hours a day during all seasons no matter the weather, and not just by a small group of athletes," she said.

Having multiple rinks would allow for multiple ice activities and groups to participate on a whim, she added.

Giving another choice for young people to be active is important to David Block. A Sharks fan himself, he spoke to the commission about the increasing demand for ice time and updated facilities.

Hockey is not the only ice activity to go into the proposed center, Jean Fahmie told the commission. An ice skater for 53 years, she represented a 460-member skating club of all ages, including a 91-year-old skater. With a rink in Berkeley closing, the group not only wants more ice time, but they also want to hold national competitions. Fahmie even urged the Sharks affiliates to add more than 300 seats to accommodate bigger competitions.

Susan Spitzer, a local soccer player, is concerned that the center would be a regional facility as opposed to something for city use. She said she'd prefer something that would give priority to residents and would allow for more adult use, since children are often the priority.

The idea of a large commercial sports facility in the city's designated park land didn't sit well with resident Judith Geiselman. She would rather see the entire 17 acres be used for park activity, adding that children's involvement in sports has become overkill.

### Prioritizing the park

After hearing public comment from about 20 people, the members of the commission each expressed



Ice time is never wasted at Logitech as people watch from the stands and lace up for a 10 a.m. skate

Shannon Corey



Upstairs at Logitech Ice is Stanley's Restaurant and Bar where you can get out of the the cold to watch a game or catch the pros on a flat panel TV.

Shannon Corey

their support for the Sharks ice center. While it may be one step closer to approval, still to be decided is the usage for the remaining 9 acres of the Staples Ranch Community Park.

Several groups came forward, urging the commission to consider their cause. Sports and environmental enthusiasts are without the space they desire, they said.

Pleasanton's youth football league is one of those groups. The teams are growing in popularity but don't have the field space for games or practices, said Dan Faustina, who coaches the teams. Two teams had to be cut, he said, because the football league is not the top priority group using the Hart Middle School fields. He added that lacrosse and football can use the same fields.

Leonard Cooper spoke on behalf of local tennis players who need more courts. He said the city's stated number of courts is misleading and falls "way below the national guidelines" because they are located at schools. Adults, he said, don't have access during the day and only occasionally in the afternoons and early evenings. Cooper requested four to six lighted courts at the Staples site.

Lighted, all-weather fields were favored by John Clinney of Ballistic United Soccer Club (BUSC). Soccer is the dominant sport among Pleasanton youth, he said, and the current number of fields isn't enough. With weather and limited daylight, the fields are really only available August through Thanksgiving, he said. And like at Val Vista Park, the group would be willing to help pay the bill.

Rich Cimino, a member of the 1,300-member Alameda Creek Alliance who leads bird watches in the area said he has a vested interest

in the park area. While he endorsed the plan, he wanted to make sure that the park project focused on a green, continuous space rather than a developed park.

#### Traffic woes

Although the concern over traffic was only addressed once at the March 1 meeting, Sharks representatives said 90 percent of the traffic would come to Staples Ranch via El Charro, not Stoneridge Drive. To further encourage this route, the main entrance and large parking lot for the ice center would be accessed only by a road to be named Auto Mall Parkway. The remaining 10 percent can access a much smaller lot from Stoneridge Drive, although people would have to walk around the building to gain entry.

A representative at the meeting said the facility would see an estimated 3,000 trips each day, adding that Logitech Ice is always "abuzz" with activity. Those attending the meeting didn't voice any objections to adding more traffic to I-580.



The proposed ice center would be modeled after Logitech Ice in San Jose.

Shannon Corey

#### Getting down to business

The March 1 workshop was the first on the Staples Ranch project. The preliminary recommendations made that night by the commission for the allotted community park space are as follows: the ice facility; four to six lighted tennis courts; two all-weather sports fields for soccer, football, lacrosse and possibly a baseball field; restrooms; trail heads; and a dog park.

City staff also held a neighborhood meeting last Wednesday to get feedback on the other portion of the Staples Ranch project that includes the senior facility, auto mall and retail center. The meetings are being held to survey the needs of Pleasanton residents so commissioners can make recommendations to the City Council.

The research into the possibility of the preliminary recommendations will be brought back to the commission at an April 5 workshop. According to Jim Wolfe, director of Parks and Community Services, the commission hopes to approve the park plans at its April 12 meeting for the Planning Commission and the council to review in June or July.

Formal negotiations would follow the council's approval, and at that time special land leasing and liability would be discussed. A Sharks representative at the meeting estimated the ice complex would cost \$30 million to build and \$2 million a year to operate. Still in the preliminary stages, it is expected that the Sharks would pay for the construction and maintenance of the complex. The Sharks may look into building the center in phases, with two rinks at a time, but Gustafson said that decision would be made later.

"The area needs more ice sports and more facilities," he said.

Even if people aren't interested in playing sports at the complex, he said the center is designed as a place where someone could stop by for dinner, use wireless Internet access for work or grab a drink. ■



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## WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

### City Council/Planning Commission Joint Workshop

Tuesday, March 27, 2007 @ 6:30 p.m.  
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- Review and comment on preliminary results of traffic modeling for three land use options modeled on the "Working Draft" circulation network with and without the Stoneridge drive extension

### Planning Commission

Wednesday, March 28, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- PCUP-190, Claudette McDermott, Poetry on Canvas**  
Application for a conditional use permit to operate an art studio Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for students ages 14 and up on the second floor of a building currently under construction located at 55 West Angela Street.
- PUD 61, Emil and Marjorie Oxsen**  
Application for Planned Unit Development (PUD) rezoning of an approximately 10,669 square foot parcel located at 403 St. Mary Street/730 Peters Avenue from the R 1 6,500 (Single Family Residential) District to the PUD HDR (Planned Unit Development - High Density Residential) District; and for PUD development plan approval to subdivide the parcel into two lots with the existing 1,118 square foot single family home on a 6,036 square foot parcel and the existing 1,20 square foot second unit and detached garage on a 4,633 square foot parcel.
- PUD-33, James Tong/Charter Properties; Jennifer Lin, Frederic Lin, and Kevin Lin**  
Consideration of: (1) an application for a PUD development plan for the Oak Grove development to subdivide an approximately 562 acre site into 51 custom home sites and to designate the area for permanent open space; (2) the Final Environmental Impact Report for the proposal; and (3) the Development Agreement to vest the entitlements covered by this application. The property is located at 1400 Hearst Drive, near the present terminus of Hearst Drive on the southerly sides of the Vintage Hills and the Grey Eagle Estates developments.
- City Capital Improvement Program for FY2007-08 through FY2010-11**  
Identification of priority projects for City Council consideration as part of the FY2007-08 through FY2010-11 City Capital Improvement Program.

### Library Commission

Saturday, March 24, 2007 @ 9:00 a.m.  
Library Community Room, 400 Old Bernal Ave.

- Commission to meet at the Pleasanton Public Library at 9:00 a.m.
- The Library Commission will then be going on a tour of the Alameda City Library, Hercules Library and the Dougherty Station Library

### Trails Ad-Hoc Committee

Monday, March 26, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Council Conference Room, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- Zone 7 Water Agency Stream Management Implementation Plan (SMIP)
- Discussion of Annual California Trail Days
- Discussion of Earth Day Event

### NOTICE OF COMMISSION/COMMITTEE VACANCIES

The City of Pleasanton is now accepting applications to fill vacancies on the following commissions or committees:

#### City of Pleasanton Commissions/Committee (Four-Year Term)

- Human Services Commission, 2 Members, 1 Alternate
- Parks & Recreation Commission, 1 Alternate
- Youth Commission, 4 Members, 2 Alternates
- Economic Vitality Committee

(1) Biomedical Representative

(1) Financial Institution Representative

#### Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee (One-Year Term)

- At-Large Parent Representatives  
(1) Pre-School Representative; (1) Elementary School Representative
- 1 Health and Crisis Representative
- 1 Non-Profit Agency Representative
- 1 Senior Citizen Representative
- 1 Youth and 1 Alternate Representative from Village High School
- 1 Youth Representative from Hart Middle School

Applications are available at the City Clerk's office, 123 Main Street, Pleasanton or on the City's Website at [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us). For additional information, call the office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027.

Applications must be received no later than **5:00 P.M., FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2007**. Postmarks are not accepted.

**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](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar)

# Community Pulse

## Police Bulletin

### Mountain bike, golf clubs and toilet paper stolen

A patrolling officer noticed an open car trunk inside an open garage of a home in the 7700 block of Canyon Meadows Circle at 4:55 a.m. last Friday. The resident reported missing a women's mountain bike, emergency kit, comforter and a new 24-pack of toilet paper. A dusting for fingerprints showed a gloved finger mark. The homeowner said she had parked her unlocked 1996 Honda Civic in her garage and closed the door at 8 p.m. the previous night. A friend who left the home at 11 p.m. hadn't noticed an open garage. The loss was valued at \$630.

A resident of a home in the 5700 block of

Hidden Creek Court accidentally left his garage door open last Friday night. According to reports, a set of 14 women's gold golf clubs, valued at \$1,225, was stolen. The resident described the set to Play it Again Sports in Pleasanton who said they would watch for it.

### Toddler recovering from second story fall

Police said a toddler who fell from a second story window (an estimated 12 feet) in the 2300 block of Santa Rita Road last Friday afternoon is recovering from an orbital fracture (eye socket), broken wrist and internal bleeding. The 2-year-old boy lost his balance on his bed near an open window and fell through the window screen, according to Lt. Mike Elerick.

## Police Report

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

#### March 10

- DUI: 1
- Found property: 1
- Theft:
  - 2:54 p.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road; shoplifting, worth less than \$50
  - 4:27 p.m. in the 4000 block of Vineyard Avenue; from vehicle, worth over \$400
  - 7:09 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth over \$400
- Vandalism:
  - 12:19 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Stoneridge Drive; public, worth \$1,000 or less
  - 4:11 p.m. in the 7400 block of Alder Court; vehicular, worth less than \$1,000
  - 5:55 p.m. in the 4400 block of Willow Road; commercial, worth \$1,000 or less
  - 9:55 p.m. in the 5800 block of Valley Avenue; commercial, worth \$1,000 or less

#### March 11

- DUI: 1
- Theft:
  - 10:00 a.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; stolen vehicle
  - 11:57 a.m. in the 4000 block of Jackie Court; from building, worth \$50-199
  - 12:20 p.m. in the 5200 block of Hopyard Road; shoplifting, worth \$50-200
  - 6:10 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; embezzlement
- Public drunkenness:
  - 12:35 a.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive
- Brandishing a weapon:
  - 11:25 p.m. in the 1100 block of Quarry Lane

#### March 12

- Found property: 2
- Theft:
  - 3:00 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth less than \$50
  - 4:49 p.m. in the 3500 block of Glacier Court; from building, worth over \$400
  - 7:00 p.m. in the 1300 block of

Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth \$200-400

- Vandalism:
  - 9:05 a.m. in the 6700 block of Hansen Drive; public, worth \$1,000 or less
  - 10:07 a.m. in the 3500 block of Nevada Street; commercial, worth \$1,000 or less
- Vehicular burglary:
  - 5:21 a.m. in the 5600 block of Baldwin Way; worth less than \$50
  - 7:43 a.m. at the intersection of Mission and Sonoma drives; worth more than \$400
  - 7:50 a.m. in the 7800 block of Creekside Drive; worth over \$400
  - 9:00 a.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle; worth less than \$50
- Drug/alcohol violations:
  - 12:08 p.m. in the 4200 block of Valley Avenue; marijuana possession
  - 10:59 p.m. in the 4300 block of Railroad Avenue; cocaine possession

#### March 13

- DUI: 1
- Found property: 1
- Theft:
  - 10:21 a.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; embezzlement
  - 10:45 a.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive; false pretenses
  - 10:50 a.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road; from vehicle, worth less than \$50
  - 1:12 p.m. in the 3100 block of Busch Road; fraud, worth over \$200
  - 1:30 p.m. in the 4200 block of Bevilacqua Court; from building, worth less than \$50
  - 3:35 p.m. in the 1200 block of Quarry Lane; shoplifting, worth \$200-400
  - 4:37 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; from building, worth \$200-400
  - 9:00 p.m. in the 3100 block of Pellaro Court; identity theft
- Vehicular burglary:
  - 3:44 a.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive; worth \$200-400
- Assault:
  - 6:50 p.m. in the 5600 block of Spring House Drive

#### March 14

- Found property: 1
- Theft:
  - 10:52 a.m. in the 4000 block of Vineyard Avenue; from vehicle, worth over \$400
  - 11:38 a.m. in the 5000 block of Hopyard Road; from building, worth \$200-400
  - 5:57 p.m. in the 2200 block of Segundo Court; identity theft
  - 5:58 p.m. in the 4000 block of Silver Street; worth \$200-400
  - 6:03 p.m. in the 6000 block of Inglewood Drive; from building, worth over \$400
  - 6:06 p.m. in the 5900 block of Corte Espada; from building, worth \$200-400
- Vandalism:
  - 1:32 a.m. at the intersection of Blessing and Laurel Creek drives; public, worth \$1,000 or less
  - 5:28 a.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive; vehicular, worth \$1,000 or less
- Vehicular burglary:
  - 6:20 p.m. in the 5800 block of Valley Avenue; worth over \$400
- Domestic animal bite:
  - 12:00 p.m. in the 1900 block of Santa Rita Road

#### March 15

- Theft:
  - 6:47 a.m. in the 6300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; from vehicle, worth over \$400
  - 12:46 p.m. in the 1700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth \$50-200
  - 1:24 p.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road; from vehicle, worth \$200-400
  - 3:11 p.m. in the 4300 block of Fairlands Drive; stolen bicycle, wrth \$200-400
  - 4:15 p.m. in the 3000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; stolen vehicle
- Commercial burglary:
  - 9:11 p.m. in the 5700 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard
- Vandalism:
  - 3:15 p.m. in the 1500 block of West Lagoon Road; public, worth less than \$1,000
  - 5:00 p.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road; vehicular, worth \$1,000 or less
- Amphetamine possession:
  - 8:31 p.m. in the 400 block of Boulder Court



# Calendar

## Author Visits

**Lisa Rovetch Visits Library**  
Children's author and artist Lisa Rovetch will visit the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., from 4 to 5 p.m. March 23 as part of the library's Meet the Author series. Ms. Rovetch has written the Hot Dog and Bob books. Call the children's desk at 931-3400 ext. 8 for details. Free.

## 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

**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.

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

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

## Classes

**Belly Dancing Classes** The city of Dublin is offering women's belly dancing classes with a 4-week starting March 3. Level 1 class meets 10 to 11 a.m. and level 2 class meets 11 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$46. Call 556-4500 or visit [www.dublinrecguide.com](http://www.dublinrecguide.com).

**Papier-mache Whimsy Class** Worthington Gallery West, 739-J Main St., will host a two-day Papier-mache Whimsy class led by artist MJ Wilson from 2 to 4 p.m. March 24 and 31. The event is free, but reservations and attendance both days are required. Participants must bring a roll of 1-inch masking tape, a full newspaper, scissors and two wire hangers. Contact Claudia Hess at [wgallerywest@sbc-global.net](mailto:wgallerywest@sbc-global.net) or 485-1183. Visit [www.worthingtongallerywest.com](http://www.worthingtongallerywest.com).

**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.

**Everything Poetry** This poetry workgroup 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 you can provide "stuffed love" in our

(continued on page 18)

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community. Contact Jeanie Haigh at [jhaigh@webbearings.com](mailto:jhaigh@webbearings.com) or 373-7982.

**Amador Valley Quilters**  
The Quilt Guild Club meets at 1:30 p.m. on the second Saturday monthly at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Call Debra, 454-1971 or visit <http://amadorvalleyquilters.org>.

**Amador Valley Toastmasters**  
Amador Valley Toastmasters meets every Thursday morning at 7 a.m. at Mimi's Cafe Restaurant in the Hacienda Crossings Shopping Center, Dublin Blvd. and Hacienda Dr., Dublin. Contact Mark Triska, [mtriska@colliersparish.com](mailto:mtriska@colliersparish.com) or 227-6210 for more information.

**American Association of University Women**  
Membership in the American Association of University Women is open to both men and women with associate's or bachelor's degrees and higher. The organization promotes equity for all women and girls, life-long education and positive societal change. For information about membership, contact Membership Chair Roz Wright, 484-0614 or [dawright@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dawright@sbcglobal.net).

**American Legion Post 237**  
American Legion Post 237 meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday monthly at the Regalia House, 4133 Regalia. Call Rene, 846-7532, or Dan, 846-7320.

**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. Call 935-8972.

**British Women's Club**  
The local chapter of Daughters of the British Empire hosts meetings the third Tuesday of the month where British women can meet and chat. Call 875-0828 or 484-1273 for meeting time and location. Visit [www.dbesociety.org](http://www.dbesociety.org) for more information.

**Everything Poetry**  
This poetry work-group meets from 9 to 11 a.m. the first Saturday monthly to critique poetry and the third Saturday monthly for a workshop pertaining to an aspect of poetry business at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Bring 10 copies of a poem. Call Michelle, 931-5350 or e-mail [mrusso@ci.pleasanton.ca.us](mailto:mrusso@ci.pleasanton.ca.us).

**Express to Success Network**  
Women's Express to Success Network meets from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday monthly at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 5115 Hopyard Rd. Visit [www.expresstosuccess.org](http://www.expresstosuccess.org) or e-mail [info@expresstosuccess.org](mailto:info@expresstosuccess.org).

**Foothill Kiwanis Key Club**  
Foothill Kiwanis Key Club meets from noon to 12:30 p.m. every Thursday at Foothill High School, 4375 Foothill Rd. Call Irv, 556-1177 or visit [www.kiwanis-pleasanton-sunrise.com](http://www.kiwanis-pleasanton-sunrise.com).

**Weekend Preview**



**Blues and energy**

Blues band The Hummingbirdz will perform at Campo di Bocce 9 p.m. March 30. Although playing traditional blues music, The Hummingbirdz is known for its high-energy shows. The band originally formed in 2004 and has a local following in the Tri-Valley, having played at many local wineries. Visit [www.thehummingbirdz.com](http://www.thehummingbirdz.com) for more information.

**Horseshoe Pitching**  
The Horseshoe Pitching Club meets at 1 p.m. every Tuesday at Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. Call Martha, 462-4283.

**Ladies Choice Investment**  
Ladies Choice Investment meets at 7 p.m. on the second Monday monthly to discuss educational stock selections and investments. Call Jeannie, 846-5106.

**Mothers Club**  
The Pleasanton Mothers Club meets from 7 to 9 p.m. the third Tuesday monthly at Mohr Elementary School, 3300 Dennis Dr., room C2. Call 927-2444, or visit [www.pleasantonmothersclub.org](http://www.pleasantonmothersclub.org).

**Mt. Diablo Rose Society**  
Mt. Diablo Rose Society meets from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. the second Wednesday monthly, except in December, at Dublin Civic Center, 100 Civic Plaza, Dublin. Call Pat, 846-4913.

**P-Town Street Rods**  
Truck or car enthusiasts club meets from 6 to 9 p.m. the second Wednesday and fourth Thursday monthly at Chicago's Metropolitan Deli, 6003 W. Las Positas Blvd. Call George, 846-5550.

**Phi Delta Kappa**  
This international organization includes professional educators and those interested in education and meets at various locations four to six times during the school year. Call Pat, 443-5526.

**Pleasanton Amador Valley Lions Club**  
Meets at noon on the first and third Thursday monthly at Round Table Pizza, 530 Main St. Call Tom, 846-4749.

**Concerts**

**CSM Panhandlers Steel Drum Band**  
Come see the 22-member CSM Panhandlers Steel Drum Band playing a variety of Calypso, Soca, Latin, and Afro-Cuban styles for a benefit concert 5 p.m. March 25 at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 7557 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. Tickets are \$10. All proceeds go to the church's Mexico mission trip. Call 828-1580 for details.

**Fusion Pleasanton Jazz Concert**  
Pleasanton Public Library presents a free Fusion Jazz Concert at 7 p.m. March 25 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, with saxophonist and composer George Brooks and violinist Kala Ramnath. It's a mixture of jazz and Indian classical music, featuring Kai Eckhardt on bass and Salar Nader on tabla. Contact Penny Johnson at [pjohnson@ci.pleasanton.ca.us](mailto:pjohnson@ci.pleasanton.ca.us).

**Glenn Miller Orchestra at USS Hornet**  
The Glenn Miller Orchestra is scheduled to perform big band and swing music onboard the USS Hornet Museum March 24. The show opens at 7 p.m. with Singing Blue Star Moms performing a tribute to the Andrew Sisters and dance lessons provided by the San Francisco Jitterbugs. The Glenn Miller Orchestra goes on at 8 p.m. with dancing on three large dance floors on the enclosed, heated hangers. Period attire is encouraged. 7 p.m.-12 a.m. \$40 for general admission in advance, \$45 at the door, \$85 for Cabaret Reserved seating USS Hornet, 707 W. Hornet Ave., Pier 3, Alameda. (510) 521-8448, ext.282. [www.hornet-events.com](http://www.hornet-events.com)

**Livermore-Amador Symphony**  
On March 24 Arthur Barnes conducts



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Grofe's Grand Canyon Suite, Weber's Symphony No. 2, Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on "Greensleeves," Barber's Knoxville: Summer of 1915 (soprano soloist: Tiffany Cromartie), and more. Tickets available at the door, at Towne Center Books, and at Cooleykatz Toys. 8 p.m. \$15 adults, \$13 seniors, youth free First Presbyterian Church, 4th & L Streets, Livermore. 925-373-6824. [www.livamsymph.org](http://www.livamsymph.org)

## Events

### Couples And Family Relationships Conference

Unlock the secrets to quality couple and family relationships, including parenting techniques, at this unique learning experience from 8 a.m. to noon March 31 at First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth Street, Livermore. You will use the skills taught at this conference your entire life. Tickets are \$59 per person. Visit [www.kivaspirit.org](http://www.kivaspirit.org) for registration and information.

**Foothill Grad Night Tickets** Grad Night 2007 tickets are on sale every Tuesday and Thursday on campus during lunchtime. Tickets are currently selling at \$135 per student. Visit [www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/foothill](http://www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/foothill) and look under the Announcements/Activities section for information.

**Pleasanton Hotel Cooking Class** Come to the Make Great Sauces cooking class from 5 to 8:30 p.m. March 26. On the menu is: red pepper coulis with hotel seafood cakes, macaroni and cheese with a classic béchamel, grilled salmon with a beurre blanc, broccoli with a tomato caper beurre noisette, and chocolate bread pudding with a whiskey sauce. Class includes recipes, loner chef coat and toque. Tickets are \$85 per student, \$35 per guest. Call 846-8106 or visit [www.PleasantonHotel.com](http://www.PleasantonHotel.com) for details.

**Pleasanton Hotel Dinner Show** The Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St., presents, "Shadow of a Murder," a spoof on Alfred Hitchcock's 1943 thriller "Shadow of a Doubt" from 7:15 to 9:30 p.m. March 16 and 23. You will laugh, witness a crime, and help solve the mystery, while enjoying a 3-course dinner. The fun begins the moment you step into the dining area. Prizes awarded to winning sleuths. Tickets are \$60 per person. Call 846-8106 or visit [www.PleasantonHotel.com](http://www.PleasantonHotel.com) for details.

**Pleasanton Hotel Entertainment** The Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St., is hosting several free events from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. in the month of March, including: The Tornados on March 16, Saint Patrick's Day Mixed Nuts on March 17, The Fabulous Cruisetones on March 23, Georgi And The Rough Week Band March 24, The Tornados again on March 30, and Major Link (Terry & Mary) March 31. Call 846-8106 or visit [www.PleasantonHotel.com](http://www.PleasantonHotel.com) for details.

**Poetry, Prose & Arts Festival** The Poetry, Prose and Arts Festival is March 31 at CarrAmerica Conference Center, 4400 Rosewood Drive. See the visual Arts Exhibit, presented by the Pleasanton Art League and other regional artists, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit the Literary Row from 12:30 to 2 p.m. and meet, talk and mingle with talented local authors. Enjoy music played by guitar, mandolin and mandocello artist Dr. Jim Steinke during the afternoon hours. Call 931-5350 for info.

**Preserving Home Ownership Forum** The East Bay Chapter of the California Association of Mortgage Brokers will hold a free homeowner's forum for current and prospective homeowners who want help in understanding their mortgage. The forum is from 9:30 a.m. to 12

(continued on page 20)

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## PLEASANTON CITY LIBRARY TO HOST FREE WORK SHOP... "GET THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS FOR YOUR CHILD'S COLLEGE EDUCATION"

A free workshop on getting thousands of dollars for your child's college education will be hosted at the Pleasanton City Library 400 Old Bernal Ave, in Pleasanton on March 28, 2007, 6:30pm and Dublin City Library 100 Civic Plaza in Dublin on March 27th & April 14th 2007, 6:30pm. The speaker will be Len Dempsy, college planning expert. He will be discussing such topics as how to send your kids to the school of their dreams without going broke; how to triple your eligibility for aid; how to find scholarships and grants you've never even heard of. And most importantly, the increasing prevalence of college scholarship scams and how to avoid being taken advantage of.

Additional topics to be included:

- How to pay for college with no money out of your pocket;
- How to send your child to a fancy private school for less than the cost of a local JC;
- How to pick the colleges that will give you the most amount of money;
- The one mistake every parent makes when applying for scholarships;
- 7 sure fire strategies to be able to afford the school of your dreams;
- A 12-month calendar of college events – what to do right now if your child is in high school;
- Shocking insider secrets that your guidance counselor doesn't know;

The seminar will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will last one hour. Admission is free but seating is limited by the size of the room, so please call (925)218-0611 to reserve your seats now. Visit [WWW.ADVANCEDCOLLEPLANNING.COM](http://WWW.ADVANCEDCOLLEPLANNING.COM) for more information.

## Thinking about a new sales career? Let's talk.

The Pleasanton Weekly and the Danville Weekly continue to expand with opportunities, so we're always looking to strike up conversations with talented sales professionals. If you have experience in newspaper sales, or a strong sales background in a similar field, we'd like to speak with you. Exceptional communication skills, proficient computer skills, and attention to detail are a must. We're a deadline-oriented company, so the ability to work accurately and efficiently is highly valued. If you possess these qualities, we're open to explore new possibilities with you.

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p.m. March 31 at the Preservation Park Ginn House Meeting Room, 660 13th Street, Oakland, and is designed to educate homeowners on their mortgages to avoid defaults and foreclosures. Call (510) 339-2121 or email john@mortgageholmgren.com.

**Spring Event at The Manors at Silvera Ranch** The Manors at Silvera Ranch will have its New Release Spring Event from 1 to 5 p.m. March 24 at 3899 Branding Iron Ct., Dublin. Enjoy wine and cheese for the adults; juice, snacks and face painting for the kids; music from KKIQ 101.7, prize giveaways and more while you tour the models.

**Veterans Benefits for Assisted Living** Families of wartime veterans and surviving spouses are invited to attend an informational seminar pre-

sented by the American Association of Wartime Veterans from 6 to 9 p.m. March 29 at AlmaVia Assisted Living, 33883 Alvarado-Niles Road, Union City. Attendees will learn from the experts about the aide and attendance benefits for wartime veterans and their surviving spouses. Call (510) 489-3800 for info.

## Exhibits

**Frogman Visits Studio 7** Meet world-famous sculptor Tim Cotterill, better known as Frogman, from 5 to 8 p.m. March 24 at Studio 7 Fine Arts, 400 Main St. See his newest creation “Upward Facing Frog,” a special edition bronze sculpture offered exclusively by Studio 7. Other whimsical specimens from his collection will also be on display. Call 846-4322 or visit [www.studio7finearts.com](http://www.studio7finearts.com).

## Live Music

**Hummingbirdz at Campo di Bocce** Hummingbirdz return to Campo Di Bocce, 175 E. Livermore Ave., Livermore, at 9 p.m. March 30. Come get your blues on with great food and wine, and try your hand at some bocce. Visit [www.thehummingbirdz.com](http://www.thehummingbirdz.com).

**Pleasanton Hotel Entertainment** Hear the sounds of the Jambalaya Swing Band March 20 and Chris Bradley’s Traditional Jazz Band March 27 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St.

**Pleasanton Hotel Entertainment** Fred McCarty sings and plays folk rock from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Thursdays in March at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St. Call 925-846-8106 or visit [www.PleasantonHotel.com](http://www.PleasantonHotel.com) for details. 6-8:30 p.m. Free.

## Pleasanton Real Estate News



by Gerarda Stocking

### THE RULE OF 72

Investors generally know this simple way of determining how long you will have to hold an investment in order to double your money. Simply divide the annual rate of return on an investment into 72, and you will come up with number of years it will take.

For example, if real estate is appreciating at 12% a year, it will take six years to double its value. But that is its fair market value, not your investment.

If you bought a home for \$400,000 with a down payment of \$80,000 (20%), and the home appreciated at a (more conservative) average of 8% a year, it would take nine years for the home’s value to double. However, your initial \$80,000 stake would have turned into roughly \$480,000 (\$800,000 less the mortgage amount) in the same time period, meaning it would have grown by 600%. That is, your initial investment would have doubled six times in nine years.

That doesn’t take into account expenses of purchase and sale and other factors, so it is a bit oversimplified. But the point remains clear. You will find very, very few (legal) investments that offer such a return during an appreciation boom. And you will still enjoy great eventual rewards relative to other investments when the appreciation rate simmers back down to, say, 4%--and properties are doubling in value every 18 years. For help call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at [www.gerardastocking.com](http://www.gerardastocking.com).

*Gerarda Stocking is the Owner/Broker of Stocking Realty.*

## Health

**All About Colon Cancer** San Ramon Regional Medical Center will present a free seminar, “All About Colon Cancer,” from 7 to 8 p.m. March 29 at the South Conference Room, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. Jeffrey Mark, M.D., will discuss the risks, ways reduce the risks of the disease, and screening. Call (800) 284-2878 or visit [www.sanramonmedctr.com](http://www.sanramonmedctr.com) for details.

## Kids & Teens

**Educulture International Foreign Exchange Fun** Host a foreign exchange student from July 8 to 30 and enjoy the cultural exchange without leaving your home. It’s a fun filled educational activity based program that keeps everyone busy during the week. Coordinators needed. Call (415) 290-4028 or visit [www.educulture.org](http://www.educulture.org) for details.

**- Girl of the Month Nominations** Pure Girls--a boutique providing fashion, party packages, and salon beauty services for girls of all ages--seeks nominations for Pure Girl of the Month, one of the ways the business recognizes the achievements of girls. To nominate please include the girl’s name, age, phone number and accomplishment. Call 485-4380, email [info@puregirlsclub.com](mailto:info@puregirlsclub.com) or visit [www.puregirlsclub.com](http://www.puregirlsclub.com).

**Pre-Dance Beauty Prep Parties** Pure Girls, 660 Main St., will have pre-dance Beauty Prep Parties from 3 to 7 p.m. Fridays in March so girls can get ready for the school dances. Girls will need a student ID or ticket from the school hosting the upcoming dance. Girls will receive 20 percent discounts on all beauty services and products. Reservations recommended. Call 485-4380 or visit [www.puregirlsclub.com](http://www.puregirlsclub.com).

## Miscellaneous

**Excellence in Education Awards** Pleasanton PTA Council and PUSD present the 17th Excellence in Education Awards, sponsored by Steven M Chew DDS. The community is invited to nominate a special teacher, administrator or staff of the PUSD for the award. Applications can be downloaded at [www.pleasantonpta.org](http://www.pleasantonpta.org). The deadline is March 23. Call 462-4891 for details.


**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](http://www.eastbayspca.org/foster).

## On Stage

**City of Angels** Las Positas College, 3033 Collier Canyon Road, Livermore, presents the Tony Award-winning musical “City of Angels” March 23, 24, 30, 31 and April 6, 7 at 8:00 p.m. and April 1 and 7 at 2:00 p.m. The jazzy, sophisticated musical comedy is about an author creating a film noir movie in 1940s Hollywood. Tickets are \$14; \$10 students and seniors. For reservations call 424-1812, for info call 424-1166.

**Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat** Amador Valley and Foothill high schools present “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” 7:30 p.m. March 15 through the 24 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Tickets are \$10 for students, \$12 for adults and are available through [www.civcartstickets.org](http://www.civcartstickets.org) or at the door the night of the event. Visit [www.civcartstickets.org](http://www.civcartstickets.org) for details.


**Taming the Wild Wild West in a Dress** The Sunol Repertory Theatre presents “Taming the Wild Wild West



## 2007 LECTURE SERIES

# SCIENCE ON SATURDAY

By Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory



By John Ziagos, LLNL scientist; and Dean Reese, teacher, Tracy High School

### March 24, 9:30 a.m. & 11:15 a.m., Amador Theater, Pleasanton


Energy is a fundamental quantity in our universe, and it cannot be created nor destroyed--only transformed. Physical laws permit us to take different types of materials in which energy is stored (like gasoline), change the state of that material (burn it to form other materials), and then harness a portion of that released energy (to power an automobile).

This talk will present the latest scientific understanding about the earth’s total energy budget and glimpsing into the future. Several fundamental energy questions are answered: will the world run out of energy, how does hydrogen, not a fuel itself, fit into the picture, what is carbon sequestration and does it matter, and what might the U.S. energy system look like in 2050?

Science on Saturday is a five-week series of free lectures for middle and high school students. The program runs March 3 - March 31.

All lectures are held at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, at 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Seating is first come, first served. No pre-registration. For directions see <http://education.llnl.gov/sos>

Contact:  
Richard Farnsworth, LLNL,  
[farnsworth1@llnl.gov](mailto:farnsworth1@llnl.gov)



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in a Dress or Let's Give the Villain the Slip" 8 p.m. March 10 through the 31 at the Sunol Glen School auditorium, 11601 Main St., Sunol. Tickets are \$12.50 and can be purchased at [www.sunol.net](http://www.sunol.net) or by phone at 862-0664.

## Political Notes

**Ward Connerly to Speak in Danville** Ward Connerly, founder and chairman of the American Civil Rights Institute and nationally respected spokesperson for equal opportunity for all Americans, will speak at a public forum sponsored by the San Ramon Valley Republican Women from 6 to 8:30 p.m. March 27 at the Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. There will be a social hour, book signing, and dinner. Tickets are \$30 per person. Contact Roxanne Lindsay at [rlindz@aol.com](mailto:rlindz@aol.com) or 837-6253. Visit [www.srvwf.org](http://www.srvwf.org).

## Seniors

**Computer Classes for Seniors 55+** The Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., offers computer classes from 9 to 10 a.m. for mature adults. Join us to learn to surf the Internet and send email. Absolute beginners welcome. The second Tuesday of month is Beginning Internet, the third Tuesday of month is Beginning Email, and the fourth Tuesday of month is Advanced Email. Email [mcorporea@ci.pleasanton.ca.us](mailto:mcorporea@ci.pleasanton.ca.us) or call 931-3400 ext. 21 for details.

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

have all skills levels in our meetings. The usual Senior Center charges apply, \$1.25 for Pleasanton Residents, \$1.75 for all others. Call 931-5365 or email [pleaseni@yahoo.com](mailto:pleaseni@yahoo.com) for info. 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

**Senior Health Fair** Ridge View Commons will be hosting a free Senior Health Fair from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 24 at Ridge View Commons, 5200 Case Ave. There will be a free raffle and refreshments. Call 484-5080 or email [ridgeviewssc@sbc-global.net](mailto:ridgeviewssc@sbc-global.net) for details.

**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

**Tri-Valley Unity Church** Tri-Valley Unity Church meets for Sunday service and children's school 10 a.m. at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. There are ongoing classes and groups with Rev. Mary Anne Harris, minister. Call (925) 829-2733 or visit [www.trivalleyunity.com](http://www.trivalleyunity.com).

## Support Groups

**Cancer Support Group** A free support group for people with cancer and their loved ones meets from 2 to 4 p.m. every Tuesday at the Valley Care Health Library and Ryan Comer

(continued on page 22)

## New! Assisted Living in Pleasanton



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## The Perfect Blend

THE INDEPENDENCE YOU WANT, THE ASSISTANCE YOU NEED.

You'll find the assisted living services at The Parkview as comforting as that first cup of coffee in the morning. Our goal is to enhance the independence



and vitality of our residents through a blend of personal care and services—all in the privacy of their own apartments.

Whether a resident requires extensive support or just a little assistance, we're here to help. And our memory care accommodations have discreet safeguards in place to enhance our residents' well-being.

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## \$ Mortgage Matters \$

### Subprime Mortgage Crisis

You have probably seen or heard the news concerning subprime lenders. A subprime mortgage is just as the name implies. It is a loan made to a borrower with less than good credit, usually a credit score under 620. Subprime loans have a shorter fixed period, generally 2 years, and, in most cases, usually have a two year prepayment penalty. This is generally a charge of 6 months interest on 80% percent of the unpaid balance.

Recently, we have seen numerous sub prime lenders closing their doors. At the printing of this article we have seen at least 40 lenders go out of business with many other lenders in trouble. There are many reasons for this situation including a slowing in home sales, a drop in values and potentially escalating mortgage payments, which occurs after the initial fixed period, causing huge increases in foreclosures and "early default loans". Most sub prime loans are sold to Wall Street investors shortly after the loan closes escrow. These loans contain a stipulation that if the borrower fails to make the 1st payment or fails to make any payment within 30 days of the due date in the 1st year, can cause the investor to make the original lender repurchase that loan. This is called an early default. It has occurred at an alarming rate, putting many subprime lenders in a very precarious position. One such major lender has been asked to repurchase over seven billion dollars in loans, putting them on the brink of bankruptcy.

Sub prime lenders have accounted for over 10% of the loans originated in U.S. As these lenders close or greatly restrict their underwriting criteria, the amount of borrowers able to purchase a home will be greatly reduced. The "trickle down affect" has already caused wild fluctuations in the stock market as investors worry about the severity and longevity of this crisis.

The big picture? Time will tell whether this is a short term or long term situation. We have already seen some loan programs disappear including the 100% stated income low credit score loan and we will probably see additional changes. The good news: The real estate and lending community is very resilient and will find ways to deal with these issues and move forward towards the next real estate boom.

If you have a concern about your subprime or adjustable loan, please contact me for a no obligation consultation about your options.

*Rick Kuhle is a mortgage broker with Diversified Capital of Pleasanton, with 27 years of experience in the real estate industry. If you have any mortgage questions or are interested in a refinance or purchase loan, please call him at:*



925-683-9578  
or 925-426-8383

(A broker licensed by the California Department of Real Estate. License# 01197454)

## Why choose a private high school?

A private high school offers exceptional learning opportunities for its students, typically within a small school environment. Quarry Lane High School embodies the best of educational practices: a rigorous college preparatory program (AP and IB), co-curricular and extra curricular activities, CIF sports, and a unique leadership program all within a small class size environment.

Because we live in a global society, Quarry Lane High School is currently a candidate school for the prestigious International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. With authorization, Quarry Lane High School (and Middle School) will join with schools world-wide that share a common philosophy – a commitment to high quality, challenging, international education that QLHS believes is important for their students.

The IB curriculum is the gold standard for college admissions, both in the United States and abroad. Features of the dynamic, multi-disciplinary program include: an extended essay, a course in Theory of Knowledge, a Creativity, Action and Service (CAS) component for experiential learning and community leadership, and six subject areas of competence.

With a smaller student/teacher ratio at QLHS, there is not only higher academic achievement and greater student involvement but also opportunity for college and career mentoring. The Quarry Lane High School hires certified classroom teachers and specialist teachers who combine technology, experience and subject matter expertise to support learning. The modern facilities are designed to

enhance the well rounded academic curriculum with science labs, computer labs, library, art studio and full size gymnasium. In addition to participating in clubs and organizations, QLHS students visit colleges and universities, and enjoy field trips abroad to enrich their learning.

Private schools can be selective about admissions in building a school community. At Quarry Lane High School, a diverse student body is formed of academic peers who share an interest in high achievement and values. Developing leadership capacity is embodied through community service and opportunities for students to develop meaningful experiences and connections with local, national and global issues.

The Quarry Lane High School strives to develop each student's potential. Students may compete with other schools through the CIF Athletics program and they can participate in a variety of academic competitions. Quarry Lane High School is a member of the National Society for Gifted and Talented and many of its students qualify for the Johns Hopkins Math and Verbal Talent Search. The school is accredited by the National Independent Private School Association (NIPSA) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

The best way to decide if a school is right for your student is to visit in person to see the classes in action. Personal tours of The Quarry Lane School are available from Monday through Friday. Contact the admissions office at (925) 829-8000 to schedule your tour. Visit the website for more information at [www.quarrylane.org](http://www.quarrylane.org).

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**Downtown Pleasanton**  
**260 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566**  
**(925) 484-2757**

Cancer Resource Center, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Ste. 270. Facilitated by The Wellness Community. Call 933-0107 or visit [www.twc-bayarea.org](http://www.twc-bayarea.org). 2-4 p.m.

**Domestic Violence** A Domestic Violence support group is held 5 to 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at Tri-Valley Haven, 3663 Pacific Ave., Livermore, for Women in Livermore every Wednesday evening. Survivors will be able to address issues of abuse in relationships. The cost is \$40 for every eight weeks, or based on a sliding scale. Call 449-5845 ext. 202 for details.

**Manspeak** This weekly men's group meets 8 to 9:30 p.m. Monday nights at Kiva Counseling Group, 11740 Dublin Blvd., Suite 202 in Dublin, and is designed to create a community between men to resolve problems, form friendships, and understand and improve relationships. It provides a source of support for personal growth and change in a safe environment so we can become aware of our own emotional habits and attitudes. The cost is \$30 per session or \$100 per month. Call 485-9370 or visit [www.kivaspirit.org](http://www.kivaspirit.org) for details.

**Al-Anon and Al-a-teen** Al-Anon is a Tri-Valley support group for family and friends of alcoholics that meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Sunday at San Ramon Presbyterian Church, 12943 Alcosta Blvd., upstairs in the Kindergarten room. Call 277-7661 or visit [www.ncwsa.org](http://www.ncwsa.org).

**Volunteering**

**Alameda County Community Food Bank** Volunteers are needed to sort food, answer the food helpline and general office work from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Alameda County Community Food Bank, 7900 Edgewater Drive, Oakland. Groups and individuals are welcome. Contact

Charles Beyer at [cbeyer@accfb.org](mailto:cbeyer@accfb.org) or (510) 635-3663 ext. 308. Visit [www.acfb.org](http://www.acfb.org).

**Saturday Salon** The American Cancer Discovery Shop needs volunteers any time from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday, or from noon to 5 p.m., Sunday at Saturday Salon at 4th St. Studio, 2235 Fourth St., Livermore. Email [karenwrites@pacbell.net](mailto:karenwrites@pacbell.net) or call 456-3100.

**Shepherd's Gate** Volunteer at Shepherd's Gate Shelter, 1660 Portola Ave., Livermore or their thrift stores, 7381 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin, and 1362 Railroad Ave., Livermore anytime Monday through Friday. Call 443-4283, ext. 217.

**The American Cancer Discovery Shop** The American Cancer Discovery Shop needs volunteers any time from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Thursday; from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday; or from noon to 5 p.m., Sunday. Call 462-7374 for details.

**TV30**

**"Ask the Doctor"** Watch "Ask the Doctor" live the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. and thereafter the show will repeat every Wednesday at 7 p.m. Visit [www.TV30.org](http://www.TV30.org) for details.

**Community News** Community news focusing on the Tri-Valley will air live at 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday with repeat broadcasts airing at 7, 9 and 11 p.m. Visit [www.TV30.org](http://www.TV30.org).

**Tri-Valley Sports Final** This weekly show covers team and individual high school sports in the Tri-Valley. TVSF airs on Channel 30 at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Hosts: Ian Bartholomew, Dr. B., and Dennis Miller. Visit [www.TV30.org](http://www.TV30.org) for details.

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**Arizona Auction**

Heavenly home on golf course near Sedona, 3/28/07. Two suites, den, clubhouse, Quality. Second home, executive retreat, \$300's. Remote bids OK. [www.AuctionsAndOptions.com](http://www.AuctionsAndOptions.com) 1-928-773-0222.(Cal-SCAN)

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**1st time offered.**

40 acres - \$39,900; 80 acres - \$69,900. Near Moses Lake, WA. 300 days of sunshine. Mix of rolling hills and rock outcroppings. Excellent views, private gravel roads, ground water and easy access! Financing available. Call WALR 1-866-585-5687.(Cal-SCAN)

**Arizona's Best Bargain**

36AC - \$59,900. Perfect for private retreat. Endless views, beautiful setting w/fresh mountain air. Abundant wildlife. Secluded with good access. Financing available. Call AZLR 1-877-301-5263. (Cal-SCAN)

**Fish Lake Valley, NV**

A bargain! 10ac Trout Stream \$59,900 (Abuts BLM). Eastern slope of White Mtns, Within looming presence of Nevada's highest peak and range. Snow covered year round. Providing cool, clean water that feeds the Rainbow Trout Creek which borders the entire back boundary. One of a kind! Inspiring, must see! Call 1-877-349-0822.(Cal-SCAN)

**New Mexico**

FIRST Time Offer. Adjacent to Lake Sumner. 10 acres - \$15,900. Rare riverfront property in NM. Incredible setting, including frequently running Pecos River, views and diverse topography. 5 minutes to Recreational Lake. Limited number of small ranches. Excellent financing. Call NML&R, Inc. 1-888-204-9760. (Cal-SCAN)

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35+ ACRES from only \$129,900! Adjacent to thousands of acres BLM Land! Centrally located off Scenic Route 9 Under 2 hours to world class skiing, minutes from excellent fishing, camping, hiking and more! Loaded with wildlife! Grand Opening Sale. Saturday, March 24th! Call for appointment or more info! 1-866-OWN-LAND x 2422. (Cal-SCAN)

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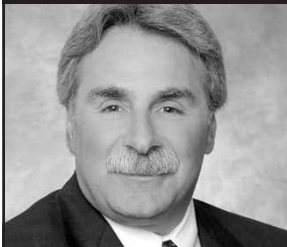
20 acres \$49,990. Scenic region, tall trees, views, wildlife, borders BLM, electricity. Horseback riding, hiking, hunting. Perfect for ranch, getaway, or retirement. 100% financing. Call 1-866-365-4122. (Cal-SCAN)

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35 acres - \$59,900; 75 acres - \$108,900. Snow-capped mountain views. Surrounded by gov't land. Abundant wildlife. Recreational paradise. Low taxes. EZ Terms. Call Utah Ranches, LLC. 1-888-703-5263.(Cal-SCAN)

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**Pet of the Week**



CATHERINE RUSH

**Mellow Marina**

Marina is a beautiful white and tabby housecat with a mellow disposition. She has pretty green eyes, white and tabby coloring, with a fluffy dark tail. Marina enjoys being petted and she's looking forward to being showered with affection. Marina would love an indoor-only home where she can sit in sunny windows and enjoy the warm spring days. Visit Marina (pet #68335) and her friends at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive, Dublin, open daily 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 803-7040.

**Shop Local  
Sell Local**

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# Dining Out

## American

### Vic's All Star Kitchen

201 Main St., Pleasanton, (925) 484-0789. Vic's delivers a starry mix of American food, fast service and a cheery atmosphere. Owner Vic Malatesta teamed his love of sports with his passion for good food to create a solid dining experience. Vic's is open daily 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Evening banquets and daytime catering are available.

### Bridges

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

## Asian-Pacific

### Mahalo Grille

425 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-2800. Treat yourself to a taste sensation at

Mahalo Grille featuring a variety of Pacific seafood, Hawaiian fresh fish and shell fish, and "Mahalo" signature selections. Also try our various vegetarian-friendly offerings, California wines and island cocktails. Visit [www.mahalogrille.com](http://www.mahalogrille.com).

## Barbecue

### Red Smoke Grill

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

## Brewpub/Alehouse

**The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill**  
3015H Hopyard Road, Pleasanton,

426-9600. Voted Best Watering Hole in Pleasanton, The Hop Yard offers 30 craft beers on tap as well as great food. The full-service menu includes appetizers, salads and grilled fare that will bring you back time and again. Banquet facilities available. On the web at [www.hopyard.com](http://www.hopyard.com).

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

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





## BLUE AGAVE CLUB

"alta cocina mexicana"

### 10 Year Anniversary Party

Sat, April 7th

### Celebrate with La Ventana Band

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Reservations: 925.417.1224  
[www.blueagaveclub.com](http://www.blueagaveclub.com)

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Milk Teas,  
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**Buy 1 Entrée, Get One 1/2 Off**

Lower priced item one per person.  
May not combine offers.  
expires 6/30/07

**Sample Menu**

- Appetizers  
Pot Stickers, Egg Rolls & Chicken Wings
- Mongolian Beef
- Sweet & Sour Chicken
- Fresh Mango Shrimp
- Won Ton Soup
- Sautéed Garden Vegetables
- Kung Pao Calamari
- Dim Sum
- Chinese Chicken Salad

## Chinese Szechuan

*Szechuan Mandarin*  
—No MSG—

**LUNCH SPECIALS**

DINE IN  
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**Catering**

**Fontina's Catering**

349 Main St., Downtown Pleasanton, 462-9299. Fontina Ristorante's award-winning menu can now be delivered to your home or office. Our lunch and dinner specialties feature homemade soups and pastas, premium seafood and meats, and a vegetarian menu. For parties of 10 or more, we'll include free dessert or 10 percent off your total bill (excluding tax).

**Chinese**

**Chinese Szechuan**

3059 Hopyard Road #G, Pleasanton, 846-5251. Chinese Szechuan is Pleasanton's best-loved Chinese restaurant. Family owned and run since 1987, it has friendly service, delicious food and great prices, including lunch specials from only \$5.25.

**Panda Mandarin Cuisine**

30 W. Angela St., Pleasanton, 484-4880. Panda offers several delicious specials using fresh ingredients and spices that make traditional northern Chinese cuisine such a delight. Open for lunch Monday through Friday, dinner Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday. A private banquet room is available. Visit [www.pandapleasanton.com](http://www.pandapleasanton.com)

**Willow Tree Chinese Cuisine**

6512 Regional St, Dublin, 828-9111. Since 1978 Willow Tree has offered authentic Dim-Sum and banquet buffet cuisine. We prepare each dish with the freshest ingredients and are dedicated to hospitality. View our complete menu at [www.willowtreerestaurant.com](http://www.willowtreerestaurant.com)

**Continental**

**Barone's**

475 St. John St., Pleasanton, 426-0987. Pleasanton's most romantic continental cuisine restaurant features innovative pasta, seafood and meat entrees, outdoor dining, and a full bar. Barone's is open for dinner seven nights and lunch Monday through Friday, with live music on Friday and Saturday evenings. Ask about our banquet facilities and special events.

**Fusion**

**Oasis Grille**

780 Main St., Pleasanton, 417-8438. Visit downtown Pleasanton's exotic dining destination. Oasis features kababs, rice and vegetarian dishes, to name a few. Check out our updated wine and exotic cocktail menus. We also cater! Visit [www.OasisGrille.com](http://www.OasisGrille.com).

**Italian**

**Fontina Ristorante**

349 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-9299. This popular downtown restaurant gets rave reviews from both locals and visitors. Fontina offers a changing, seasonal menu and daily specials--including homemade soups, pastas, seafood, chicken and veal--served in a comfortably elegant atmosphere. We have indoor and outdoor seating. Join us for Saturday and Sunday champagne brunch.

**Frankie, Johnnie & Luigi Too!**

11891 Dublin Blvd., Dublin, 828-9380. Lively chatter and the aroma of garlic fill this warm and friendly, classically "Italian" restaurant. Watch cooks hand toss dough at this Tri-

(continued on page 28)

**FONTINA Ristorante**

- 3 New Specials Every Week
- Seasonal Menu

**Best of Pleasanton 2006**

Kids eat free\*  
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\*One free child meal (under 12 yrs) with one paying adult

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Meals include four corn muffins and two large sides.

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One Pound Tri-Tip and Whole Chicken	\$31.99
Full Slab of Ribs & Whole Chicken	\$31.99
One Pound Tri-Tip and Whole Slab	\$36.99

**Sides**

- Small Side Salad,
- French Fries, Roasted Corn Salad, Potato Salad, Creamy Cole Slaw, Santa Maria Style Beans, Chicken Tortilla Soup

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When you can go 'Uptown'*

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"Fresh Italian with a California Attitude"

**THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS**

- Half/Full Rack Chipotle Baby Back Ribs with Garlic Mashed Potatoes
- 16 oz. Peppered NY Strip Steak with Mushroom Brandy Demi-Glace and Roasted Butternut Squash
- Herb Crusted Mahi Mahi with Roasted Tomato Broth over Sun-Dried Tomato Orzo
- Every Friday and Saturday Evening: Traditional Slow Roasted Prime Rib Au Jus

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*Spring Forward*

**ENJOY THE WARM WEATHER ON THE OUTDOOR PATIO!**

*Enjoy these great March Specials*

- CREAMY SPINACH & ARTICHOKE DIP, with Dungeness Crab & Bay Shrimp
- ROLLED VEAL SALTIMBUCCA WITH PROSCIUTTO, MOZZARELLA & SAGE with Crimini Mushroom & Red Wine Demi Glace
- BOWTIE PASTA TOSSED WITH HOUSE SMOKED SALMON, ROCK SHRIMP & GRILLED MUSHROOMS in a Saffron Cream Sauce
- PAN-SEARED FRESH ORANGE ROUGHY Topped with Caramelized Onions, Served with Rosemary Fingerling Potatoes
- GARLIC & PARMESAN CRUSTED FILET OF SOLE, Topped with Roasted Pepper & Kalamata Salsa
- GRILLED USDA PRIME FLAT IRON STEAK, Marinated in Red Wine & Herbs, Sliced & Topped with a Wild Mushroom Ragout

**PASTAS**  
*T r a t t o r i a*

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PLEASANTON, 94566  
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**DINNER:** Monday-Thursday 5:00-9:30  
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**THE PANDA**

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**Garlic di Pasta**  
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**Dining Out**

"A" by the Contra Costa Times restaurant critic and voted the best Italian restaurant by the readers of the Tri-Valley Herald. We're located off the beaten path of downtown Pleasanton in the Hopyard Village Shopping Center.

**Girasole Grill**  
3180 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, 484-1001. Girasole serves fresh "Italian with a California attitude" and features signature cuisine in a warm Tuscan villa setting. Experience Absolut! Prawns, Chicken Gorgi, Salmon Provencale, our daily fresh catch and savory steaks, and our infamous Scoozzi! We have two private banquet rooms and a great bar. Visit [www.girasolegrill.com](http://www.girasolegrill.com).

**Pastas Trattoria**  
405 Main St., Pleasanton, 417-2222. Pastas Trattoria has an elegant atmosphere and a one-of-a-kind menu. We feature steaks, seafood and our famous pasta, plus a superb selection of spirits and fine wines. Live music will jazz up your Friday and Saturday evenings. The banquet facilities have wireless Internet for large parties, up to 70 guests.

**Japanese**

**Ume Sushi**  
4855 Hopyard Road #7 in Gateway Square, 734-0996. Acclaimed chef David Win brings delicious Japanese cuisine to Pleasanton at an afford-

able price! We have a daily fresh fish delivery, teriyaki and tempura. We are open Monday-Saturday, with lunch from 11:30-2:30 and dinner from 4:30-9:30, Saturday until 10 p.m. Party platters are available. Visit our website: [www.umesushi.com](http://www.umesushi.com).

**Pizza**

**Gay Nineties Pizza Co.**  
288 Main St., Pleasanton, 846-2520. Gay Nineties is family-oriented with an extensive menu, including our renowned pizza, Italian dishes, salads and sandwiches. We also have wine, beer, patio dining and games for kids. Come for groups, take out and call-ahead lunch orders. We're open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

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

**Forbes Mill**

**STEAKHOUSE**

DANVILLE

The Ultimate Steak Experience  
The Ultimate *Lunch* Experience

**KOBE WEDNESDAYS**  
**3-course meal for \$60**

**STEAKS TO GO**

Kobe & Prime Certified Angus Beef  
Purchase our great steaks to cook at home!



Hours: Lunch M-F 11:30-5 & Dinner Daily at 5 pm ~ [www.forbesmillsteakhouse.com](http://www.forbesmillsteakhouse.com)  
200 Sycamore Valley Road West ~ Danville ~ 925.552.0505

**GAY NINETIES PIZZA CO.**

*Italian Style Spaghetti & Ravioli*

Lunches • Dinners • Beers on Tap • Orders to Go

Check out our new website at [www.gayninetiespizza.com](http://www.gayninetiespizza.com)

Open 7 Days **288 Main Street • 846-2520**



**St. Jude Children's Research Hospital**  
ALSAC • Danny Thomas, Founder  
*Finding cures. Saving children.*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 31ST**

**West Coast Olympic Gymnastics will host a "Workout for St. Jude."**

By participating or attending the event, you will help raise funds for children of the world who are stricken with diseases like cancer, AIDS, and Sickle Cell Anemia. These funds will help St. Jude in its ongoing fight against childhood cancer and other catastrophic diseases. In addition, what a great way your children can actively participate in helping others.



**Pete the Clown Magic Show**

**1-3pm Kids Cartwheel & Somersault Marathon!**

**Casa Orozco lunch for child participants**



**McGrath Irish Dancers**

Performance by the WCOGA Boys & Girls competitive teams

For more information, please contact Laurie Siebel @ 925-577-4238 or visit our website at: [www.wcoga.com](http://www.wcoga.com)  
West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Academy  
1056 Serpentine Lane, Ste. B • Pleasanton, CA



*Your Gymnastics Experience Begins Here...*

**pacific blend cafe**

**FEATURING LOARD'S ICE CREAM**  
Fresh Fudge • Smoothies • Candy & More!

**FEATURED SPECIALS**

- SUPER SUNDAE SUNDAYS**  
\$1.99 HOT FUDGE SUNDAES (REG \$3.75)  
THIS SUNDAY NOON-3PM
- SENIOR HAPPY HOUR**  
MONDAY-THURSDAY 1-3PM

**OPEN DAILY**  
5424 SUNOL BLVD (NEAR RALEY'S)  
925-846-7800

Elegant banquet room and wine bar combination ideal for all your special occasions.  
• Catering Service • Take Out Menu



The euphoria of fine Italian food  
**La Vite**  
RISTORANTE

*Garlic di Pasta*  
Same Ownership - Same Great Food

3037-G Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton (At Valley Ave in Hopyard Village)

**925-485-4500**  
[www.LaViteRestaurant.com](http://www.LaViteRestaurant.com)