

## Unauthorized Uses Turning Mines Rd. Commercial

Residents on Mines Road are concerned about what they call the commercialization of their rural residential neighborhood.

Two developments had them aroused at a neighborhood meeting of about 30 people recently.

One is the Garcia Events Center, which has changed its name to the Sweet Remembrances Ministry and Events Center. The events center opened two years ago, but never had a permit to do so.

Bob Baltzer, Chairman of Friends of Livermore, said, "If this were approved, it would set a precedent for the Cedar Grove development and any other religiously connected use. That could include a connection of dubious merit,

such as the Garcia Event Center, where a religious use was added after the original application was filed."

Another possible religious use could be a Salvation Army car lot, Baltzer observed.

Neighbors said that the South Livermore Plan was established to encourage agriculture. Wineries have events centers as a way to promote the agricultural products. They have obtained permits for them. The Garcias do not have a winery. Their operation has nothing to do with agriculture.

Patti Ising, a representative of the Mines Road Property and Homeowners Association, filed the appeal on behalf of the organization. She said, "Their intention is strictly to conduct weddings

on the property, without an agricultural use."

The east county board of zoning permits granted an events center use recently, after the Garcias sought it. However, neighbors have appealed that decision to the board of supervisors, which was to deal with it at their meeting today, Thurs., Sept. 14.

Neighbors are hoping the matter will be continued so they can provide the Board of Supervisors with additional information.

The other complaint by neighbors is an apparent appliance depot operating out of a private residence in a rural residential zone on Mines Road. Trucks with signs that say they represent an appliance installation center have been

spotted turning into the property.

Neighbors from some distance away have reported hearing the beep of trucks backing up on the property, mostly between 6:30 and 7:30 a.m. Mondays through Fridays. As many as 21 trucks have been counted going into the property in about one hour. Other large delivery trucks that back up and block both lanes of Mines Road have halted traffic, say neighbors.

Complaints to the county have resulted in investigations by two departments. A building inspector has looked at buildings on the property. The planning department, which examines uses of property, has written a letter to the property owners to cease their appliance depot use.

It's not a retail use, apparently. Trucks pick up appliances in the morning for delivery elsewhere.

Residents contacted for this story said that the trucks are still going to the property, as of the Independent's deadline on Tuesday.

Tona Henninger, deputy director of the planning department's code enforcement division, said that the property owner called the department after receiving a 15-day notice to cease activities. The property owner was told by phone that he can't conduct that type of activity in the zone.

Henninger said the department will stay on the case. The property owner will be given time to relocate his business.

## No Change In Pleasanton Council Rules

There will be no changes in the Pleasanton City Council's rules and operating procedures.

The council reached consensus last week that the current rules are working.

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman's travels to various meetings and her activities related to peace and environmental issues led members of the public and councilmember Steve Brozosky to question whether she was adhering to council protocols.

Brozosky asked that the rules be reviewed at a council meeting. He questioned the use of an elected title at outside conferences, as well as the ability of representatives to vote on issues not first vetted by the entire council.

City Attorney Michael Roush noted that when an elected official is appointed to an outside organization such as ABAG, he or she must represent the opinion of the majority of the council on any votes. From time to time, elected officials attend conferences or the League of California policy committees, at city expense, where they may be called upon to vote on conference/committee items. Historically, the elected official has voted the individual's position without input or discussion from the council as a whole.

When it comes to the use of a title, Roush pointed out that mayors and councilmembers

(See RULES, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The fifth anniversary of September 11 was remembered by Maria and Mitchell McKenzie, who placed flowers at a spontaneous memorial in memory of Tom Burnett. He died when Flight 93 crashed in Pennsylvania. The memorial was at Tom Burnett Lane in Pleasanton, next to where Burnett worked.

## Central Valley Makes Another Pitch For Livermore's VA Nursing Home

A special committee that has been looking into the future of VA nursing home facilities heard San Joaquin County officials make another pitch for building a VA nursing home there.

The comments were made during a hearing held last Friday at

the Livermore VA facility.

On the Alameda County side of things, no one spoke up, although Rep. Ellen Tauscher, who represents Livermore in Congress, sent a strongly worded letter backing the Livermore campus for a renovated or rebuilt

nursing home.

The special committee has Livermore and Central Valley members. It has been taking testimony about the future fate of the Livermore facilities. The Local Advisory Panel is part of a VA

(See VA, page 4)

## Cedar Grove Issue On Agenda

The Livermore City Council will discuss the proposed Cedar Grove Church project at its September 25 meeting with the goal of taking a position on the matter.

The date was selected so that the discussion could take place prior to when the Alameda County Planning Commission

considers the issue on Oct. 2 at 6 p.m.

The land on which Cedar Grove Church proposes to construct new facilities is located within Alameda County's jurisdiction and the South Livermore Valley Area Plan. The church is planning for 75,000 square feet of new construction, plus a park-

ing lot that accommodates 508 cars.

Three members of the council, Tom Reitter, Marj Leider and John Marchand, asked that it be placed on the agenda.

Mayor Marshall Kamena and Lorraine Dietrich said that it was a county issue. Kamena said the

(See CEDAR GROVE, page 4)

## Proposed Projects Would Add to Livermore's Economy

Trader Joes, Kohl's Department Store, a "mega" Toyota dealership, and a Super Wal-Mart are all in the works for Livermore.

Kohl's and Wal-Mart have submitted applications. Kevin Roberts, Economic Development Director, told the city council on Monday. He said that the city still does not have confirming words from Trader Joes. However, a liquor license application has been posted and representatives have been asking about the permitting processes. "We hope by the end of the year to see progress."

Roberts said Trader Joes would occupy 12,000 square feet

of the former K-Mart Store.

As for Wal-Mart, Marc Roberts, Community Development Director, said the city has received an application. "Under state law we are required to process the application." He said there is about six months of work first on economic and environmental reviews. The Super Wal-Mart has purchased a 20-acre site at the corner of Jack London Blvd. and Isabel Avenue.

Adjacent to the proposed Wal-Mart site, the Oak Subdivision is moving forward with several large distributors looking to come on the site, according to Kevin Rob-

erts. Kohl's Department Store is in the application state. It is proposing to construct a department store between the current Wal-Mart and Kaiser Medical Offices.

The Toyota dealership is moving forward. It would be located on North Front Road east of Vasco Road. According to Kevin Roberts, there were problems meeting the scenic corridor standards. However, those issues have been solved. He described the dealership as a "flagship store, a new prototype

(See PROJECTS, page 3)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Pleasanton Rage Bulldogs were one of the groups taking part in the annual soccer parade down Main Street in Pleasanton last Saturday. The parade is the official kick off of soccer season.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Rich Perkins, owner of Attitude Aviation, is standing in front of the Pitts. It is just one of many airplanes that will be on display during the annual open house at the Livermore Airport. For the story about the open house and other events, see page 3.

## Pleasanton Chamber to Celebrate 60th Anniversary

A Dinner of the Decades will mark the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce's 60th Anniversary. The gala will be held on Saturday, September 23.

It was 1946 when the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce became incorporated and was established to help the local business community. Over the last 60 years the Chamber has supported thousands of members by offering networking opportunities, advocating through a unified business voice, providing educational opportunities to assist members in managing their businesses, and increasing Community Service opportunities to enhance the socioeconomic and cultural well being

of the Pleasanton area.

For many years the Chamber had a Downtown Committee that looked out for interests that affected downtown and promotion opportunities. In 1984 an assessment district was formed known as Pleasanton Downtown Association (PDA). The Chamber continues to support Downtown Pleasanton in its efforts and the importance it brings to the community.

In addition the Chamber has been influential in launching some of Pleasanton's key organizations. In 1988 the Chamber launched the Convention and Visitors Bureau now known as the Tri-Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau. Two years re-

search was culminated in approval and release of funds by city council for establishment of CVB in Pleasanton. The CVB was designed to serve as a centralized information center for the community and continues to do so today.

The same year the Chamber created a committee that became a separate, nonprofit organization known as Pleasanton Partners In Education (PIIE). PIIE provides the opportunity to both small businesses and large corporations to participate with local schools and help students further their education.

The Chamber's 60th Anniversary Celebration, Dinner of the Decades will highlight the suc-

cess of the Chamber and the growth of Pleasanton over the last 60 years, as well as the culture, the food and what was happening in each decade. Beginning in the 1950s to present day each decade will have a station featuring period foods and historical information.

The reception will begin at 7:00 p.m. At 7:45 p.m. attendees will enter Dinner of the Decades where a short program highlighting the Chamber's success will take place and be followed by dancing to the sounds of Brad Kinney Productions. Guests will hear some of their favorite tunes from the last six decades. The

(See CHAMBER, page 2)



# VALLEY ROUNDUP

## Mayor's Summit

The Livermore Chamber of Commerce will hold the last in its series of 2006 Wine Country Summer Luncheons on Thursday, September 28.

This luncheon is hosted by the Danville Area, Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and San Ramon Chambers and the Tri-Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau. It will feature area mayors including Karen Stepper, Danville; Janet Lockhart, Dublin; Marshall Kamena, Livermore; Jennifer Hosterman, Pleasanton; and H. Abram Wilson, San Ramon.

The luncheon will be held on the grounds of Wente Vineyards Restaurant, Event Center & Golf Course at 5050 Arroyo Road in Livermore.

The luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. Seating is limited and advanced reservations are required. The fee is \$35 for Chamber members and their guests, \$45 for non-members.

For further information or to make reservations call the Chamber at 447-1606.

## Fresh Start Grant

Alameda County Office of Education has been awarded a \$300,000 grant to evaluate the new California Fresh Start Pilot Program, which aims to provide students throughout California with fresh fruits and vegetables for breakfast.

The California Healthy Kids Resource Center (CHKRC) at the Alameda County Office of Education (ACOE) will partner with the Center for Weight and Health at the University of California, Berkeley to conduct the evaluation. The CHKRC will coordinate the project and serve as lead fiscal agent.

The evaluation will examine the type of fresh fruits and vegetables that were served during the first year of the Fresh Start Pilot Program, comparing data from before and after funding; and breakfast participation rates of students, and factors that influenced participation.

The researchers will look at what strategies food services are using to increase fresh fruits and vegetables in the school breakfast program; what are the perceptions of the program by students and school staff; what barriers exist; and

what nutrition education took place in the classroom that went hand-in-hand with the breakfast program.

Senate Bill 281 became law in September 2005, appropriating \$18.2 million for breakfast programs at K-12 public and charter schools to include a supplemental serving of fresh or otherwise nutritional fruits and vegetables.

## League of Women Voters Water Study

The Livermore-Amador Valley League has begun a water study. It will take up to a year to complete and is open to any area resident over 18 to join and contribute. The first meeting is a luncheon on September 23rd with a speaker from Zone 7. A part of the program will offer samples of Tri-Valley water to taste and rate.

Individuals who are interested in our water supply and quality are invited to come and see how the League works on an issue. Later participants will be visiting an area water treatment facility, speaking with water technicians, and gathering information from many sources.

For information on the luncheon, or to be a part of the area water study, call 925-443-8683 or notify us by e-mail, lavlvw@comcast.net.

## Parking Structure Dedication

The Pleasanton Unified School District will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly completed parking structure at Amador Valley High School on Thursday, September 14, at 10:15 a.m.

The two-story structure, a partnership between Valley Community Church and the District, will accommodate 338 cars, an increase of 114 parking spaces. Valley Community Church financed the construction of the project which is located on District property. During the week, the spaces will be available for school staff parking and student parking as needed. Visitors to the church will be able to use the structure on Sundays.

Entry to the parking structure is off of Del Valle Parkway, east of Valley Community Church which is located at 4455 Del Valle Parkway, Pleasanton. Amador Valley High School is located at 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton.

# PROJECTS

(continued from page one)

unique to the area. Construction is expected to start in 2007 with the dealership opening in early 2008.

Groth Bros. plans to move to a site across from Toyota. Kevin Roberts said that the two dealerships have been working together. He added, "The important thing is that Groth Bros. is staying in Livermore. Their relocation opens up their downtown site for redevelopment."

The Groth Bros. downtown property is considered a catalyst site in the revitalization of the downtown.

Another catalyst site is the former Lucky shopping center on Railroad Avenue. The Lucky site is currently going through the development review and approval process.

The council earlier in the evening approved another down-

town project. The council okayed a 9596 sq. ft. office building and a 1382 sq. ft. neighborhood serving commercial building for construction on a former used car lot at 1859 First Street.

Already approved and moving forward is the new Catholic high school, Pope John Paul II High School, in North Livermore. Construction is expected to start on the school in the fall of 2007. The school is projected to open for classes in the fall of 2008. Work will begin in the near future on the widening and extension of Los Colinas Road that will connect the 122-acre school site with Las Positas Avenue.

A 500,000 square foot upscale shopping center on El Charro Road is also progressing. Marc Roberts said the city is working with all of the property owners in the area on infrastruc-

ture, economic and environmental reviews. He anticipated the council would be able to review "something" next spring.

The new center will have outlet stores such as Saks Fifth Avenue, Nieman Marcus, Adrienne Ferrigno and Gucci. The center is expected to be open in the fall of 2008.

In the downtown, the Madden retail, office, and commercial buildings are expected to open for business in the first quarter of 2007 as reported last week. The movie theater operators anticipate a Thanksgiving opening this year. The Public Plaza, between the retail and office projects has just begun construction. It will be completed by the end of 2006.

The 500-seat theater, located behind the plaza, is scheduled to be opened for performances in September 2007.

## Sunol to Host Annual Country Festival, 'Tracks to the Past'

The public is invited to a grand party in Sunol as the Pacific Locomotive Association and Save Our Sunol present the annual Sunol Country Festival with this year's theme "Tracks to the Past." The event will be a tribute to the 1940's and this east bay hamlet's rich past. It will be held Saturday, September 16th from 10 am to 6pm in Sunol's Depot Gardens community park on Main Street in Sunol.

The event will feature musical entertainment from The Big Band from the aircraft carrier USS Hornet, as well as local favorite blues band, Nightmare on Bourbon Street. Nightmare on Bourbon Street will perform a mix of New Orleans rhythm and blues, as well as traditional and original blues material.

The celebration will include a display of vintage cars from the 1940's and 50's. As is custom for the small town's annual festival, the raffle will feature a \$1000 cash grand prize and Raiders Sky-Box Tickets. The Silent Auction is back including a special dinner at the Sunol California Department of Forestry Fire Station, and a Reno Fun Train trip, and other great prizes.

There will be games for the kids, as well as a special presentation honoring local World War II veterans. The annual Sunol Citizen of the Year award will be presented.

The Niles Canyon Railway will roll on through with its heritage steam powered "Dresser Special" train ride over the original transcontinental railway from downtown Sunol through the beautiful canyon to Niles, Fremont throughout the day at a special 1-day excursion fare of \$6

for adults and \$3 for kids from 3 to 11.

The food fare will feature Tri-Tip sandwiches, hamburgers, hot dogs and chili. Thirsts will be quenched with soft drinks, wine, and several kegs of on-tap beers boasting brands famous in the forties. Local non-profit groups including the Little Brown Church, the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, Sunol Glen School, Save Our Sunol, the Pacific Locomotive Association and the Sunol Community Club will present drinks, snacks, and 1940's oriented events.

Admission and parking are free. The festival is sponsored by local non-profit organizations working to preserve the rural nature of the Sunol area. Information on the Niles Canyon Railway is available at www.ncry.org. Sunol Country Festival event information is available at www.sunol.net, or by calling Pat Stillman at (925) 862-2263.

## Annual Airport Open House Set for Saturday

The Livermore Municipal Airport's 11th annual open house is set for Sat., Sept. 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This event is designed to acquaint residents of the Tri-Valley with the airport and many of its users. It officially gets underway at 11 a.m. with an opening ceremony that includes a flag presentation by Civil Air Patrols East Bay Cadet Squadron 18 colorguard of Hayward. Airport manager Leander Hauri and other city officials will make opening

remarks.

A wide variety of aircraft from homebuilt to World War II will be on display. State of the art planes such as Cirrus and Diamond Star will be on display. Owners will be on hand to talk about their airplanes.

Among special ground displays will be Calstar Air Ambulance, California Highway Patrol Air Operations Unit, Livermore/Pleasanton Fire Department, Livermore Police Department's SWAT team with canine unit,

Banner towing by Aerial Services, and vintage aircraft. Other community organizations are expected to take part in the open house.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase. There will be musical entertainment.

The Experimental Aircraft Association is an organization that offers flights to youngsters age 8 to 17. They may sign up for a future flight at the open house with Ralph Cloud of EAA Chapter 663.

The airport is home to over 600 aircraft.

Parking and admission are free.

The vent is sponsored by the City of Livermore, Livermore Municipal Airport, and the Livermore Valley Airmen's Association, which coordinates the event.

For information, call Andrea McCarthy, Livermore Valley Airmen's Association president, 606-5508.

## Something for Everyone at Dublin's Day On the Glen Festival

The 6th Annual Day on the Glen Festival will be held Sat. and Sun., Sept. 16 and 17 at Emerald Glen Park in Dublin. Festival hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

This festival includes a variety of activities. Three stages offer entertainment with everything from soft rock music, hula dancers, and teen bands to a bird show and magician. There will also be wildlife presentations, as well as carnival rides, jumpers, a kite demo, pony rides and a petting zoo. For the athletic, sporting events include 3-on-3 basketball, a sanctioned outdoor VolleyZoo tournament, cricket,

kite flying and bocce ball.

The 5th annual Skateboard Competition and Demonstration is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. This is sponsored by Unity Skate Shop in Livermore. Entry fee is \$15 in advance and \$20 day of the event. Trophies will be awarded. Applications can be downloaded at www.DayontheGlen.com.

On Sunday, a professional skateboard demo by City Skates is planned.

Over 100 commercial vendors and nonprofit groups will have booths. A wide variety of food will be available for purchase.

Entertainers include the

Hipwaders (children's songs), California Puppets, magician Timothy James, Big Rain (soft rock), Dessert Dave (reptile show), Wildlife Associates (red fox, hawk), Leopards, Etc. (mountain lion, king cheetah, Siberian lynx), and Happy Birds (parrot show). Roaming entertainers include Dana Smith and his dog Lacey, Crackers the Clown, and several face painters. On Sat., from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Gibson, the World's Tallest Dog, will be on hand.


Emerald Glen Park is located at the corner of Tassajara Road and Gleason Drive.

For additional information go

to www.DayontheGlen.com, call the event hotline at 833-6629 or call the Parks and Community Services Department at 556-4500.

# PROSTATE CANCER

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**Presented by:** Young Kang, M.D., Urologist

**Guest Speaker:** John Roger Bailey, prostate cancer survivor

**Date:** Tuesday, September 27, 2005

**Time:** 7 - 8:30 pm.


**Location:** ValleyCare Medical Plaza  
5725 W. Las Positas Blvd.  
Conference Room 2  
Pleasanton  
Two blocks West of the hospital

Please register for this seminar by calling 1-800-719-9111 or visit [valleycare.com](http://valleycare.com) — click on the classes link.

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**Date:** Saturday, October 1, 2005 **Location:** ValleyCare Medical Center  
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# Foundation Pledges \$1 Million Towards Firehouse Arts Center

Greg Reznick, president of the board of the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation (PCAF), announced last week that the board has collectively pledged \$1 million towards the Firehouse Arts Center project in downtown Pleasanton.

PCAF was established to spearhead fundraising for the center. The City of Pleasanton has a commitment for \$8.8 million towards the project. However, the city's support is only part of what is needed to bring the project to fruition. The Firehouse Arts Center will be a public facility and needs the engagement and ongoing support of the community to make it a success. The \$1 million pledge by the PCAF board brings the project total to nearly \$10 million. PCAF's goal is to raise a total of \$5 million beyond the city's commitment in order to fully finance construction, as well as to establish funding for programming at the center and other venues in Pleasanton for years to come.

President Greg Reznick notes, "I am pleased and proud

to be a part of the group making a gift that will take us a long way towards our fundraising goal to support the Firehouse Arts Center. So much has been done by so many to make Pleasanton such a special place to live. The Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation sees the Firehouse Arts Center as a key factor that will take Pleasanton to the next level in its development. By bringing arts to downtown, by providing citizens a chance to enjoy and participate, by providing a bridge from Main Street to First Street, it will do much to enhance our city. We are confident that we will be joined by many others in our quest to bring the best possible arts center to our downtown."

Reznick said during a press meeting, "It's about building support for the arts in the community over the long run. We are looking at becoming a grant making organization to provide support for start-ups."

It is expected that the center, slated to open in early 2008, will become a focal point that will stimulate the economic growth and cultural vitality of the downtown core. It will capitalize on



The Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation Board holds a check for \$1 million, the amount they plan to give towards construction of the Firehouse Arts Center.

the downtown district's high-quality shopping and dining, historic flavor and pedestrian-friendly ambiance, offering an attractive link from Wayside Park and First Street to Main Street.

With its 240-seat theater, galleries and art classrooms, the Firehouse Arts Center will provide a wide range of arts experiences for Pleasanton residents of all ages, according to PCAF. It

will have a positive impact on the education of our children and youth by enriching and entertaining them through the arts. In addition, the project will serve as a catalyst in moving Pleasanton to the next stage in its evolution by offering residents arts and cultural opportunities close to home.

The PCAF said it is making a dedicated attempt to reach out

to the community by providing opportunities to contribute to the success of the Firehouse Arts Center and making Pleasanton a better place to live and work. Support of the campaign will contribute to the development of arts facilities and programs in Pleasanton and expand its cultural identity for current and future generations.



**PET OF THE WEEK: KYLE**  
Kyle is so cute he should have his own TV show. Team him with his brother, Kenny, and you have round-the-clock entertainment. These orange and white Tabbies are playful and active, loving and cuddly. They are about 5-months old and are ready and waiting for your call. For more information on Kyle and Kenny call Valley Humane Society at (925) 426-8656. Valley Humane Society holds mobile pet adoptions for dogs and cats at Pet Extreme in Livermore every Saturday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

## Mountain Lion Foundation to Present 'Living with Lions'

The Mountain Lion Foundation and the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District invite the public to explore the biology and behavior of mountain lions and the best practices to avoid conflicts with mountain lions.

Living with Lions will be presented Tues., Sept. 26 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Robert Livermore Community Center, Cresta Blanca Ballroom, 4444 East Avenue, Livermore, California.

This fact-filled Living with Lions presentation is free, however, a \$3 donation is requested at the door. All questions will be answered immediately after the presentation.

It is only with better understanding and knowledge of these magnificent creatures that people will live more comfortably with their neighboring lions.

The program is appropriate for ages 12 and over (under 16 re-

quires accompanying parent/guardian).

Emily Cunnison, Program Associate, will present the program.

This event is sponsored by the Livermore Area Recreation & Park District.

The Mountain Lion Founda-

tion is a national non-profit wildlife conservation and education organization, dedicated since 1986 to Saving America's Lion™. The Mountain Lion Foundation is a leading authority on the conservation of mountain lions and their habitat.

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