



Planes of various types will be displayed during the annual Livermore Airport open house this Saturday.

## Airport to Host Open House

The 12th annual open house will be held at the Livermore Airport on Sat., Sept. 22.

The event is hosted by the City of Livermore and the airport. There is no admission charge. The event will include exhibits, food, entertainment, and a static display of Livermore-based aircraft.

The Livermore Airport is home to over 600 aircraft, including general aviation, military/warbirds, antique/classic, experimental/homebuilt, and aerobatic types. Local Chapter 633 of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) will be signing up youngsters, age 8 to 17, for "Young Eagle" (free) airplane rides, which will be scheduled for

(See AIRPORT, page 14)



Recently, the City of Pleasanton celebrated the 75th birthday of the downtown arch. This weekend, there will be a celebration of the city's heritage.

## Pleasanton to Celebrate the Past

The Pleasanton Heritage Festival will be held on Saturday and Sunday, September 22 and 23 in downtown Pleasanton. The Museum On Main, 603 Main Street, will provide a program of history and local heritage.

Bonnie Green, a Pleasanton resident, will perform music from the turn of the 19th century.

The museum's front lawn will become an old-fashioned social gathering place. Freshly-made cotton candy and shaved ice for sale. An old-fashioned country store will feature bonnets, replicas of raccoon skin caps, historical books, wooden toys, old-fashioned craft projects, and lots of other wonderful gifts. There will be historical displays and the Pioneers of Pleasanton Exhibit.

More than 200 artisans will be bringing their talents to Pleasanton. From painters to fabric artists, potters to photographers, there will be something for everyone.

"The Festival is a wonderful blend of the old and new," says Christine Saldivar, Executive Director of the Pleasanton Downtown Association about celebrating the past while enjoying the wide variety contemporary art which will fill the streets.

Also on the street the P-Town (See HERITAGE, page 14)

## Fund-raising For Dietrich Planned

Supporters of Lorraine Dietrich for City Council are holding a fund-raising barbecue this Sat., Sept. 22 from 4 to 7 p.m. It will be at Eagle Ridge Winery, 10017 Tesla Road.

The menu includes tri-tip, chicken, and a variety of other dishes. Tickets are \$50 per person and are available in advance and at the door. For further information, or to reserve a ticket, call 449-1919.

The Livermore-Amador Valley League of Women Voters will present a forum for the candidates for the Livermore City Council, Wednesday, October (See CAMPAIGN, page 3)

# Delta Ruling Could Damage Valley Economics

The long-term effects of six-month Delta water cutbacks every year to protect an endangered fish species will have enormous impacts on the Valley. That was the conclusion an expert told an audience of approximately 100 at a Delta crisis information summit in Pleasant Hill.

However, remarks made in the speech by Walnut Creek water consultant Robert Whitley may have painted a picture that has too much "gloom and doom" in its outlook. Zone 7 Water Agency general manager Jill Duerig told the Independent. There are small steps that can be taken this year

and next year with the Delta problem that can help ease the impact on Zone 7, she said.

However, Duerig agrees with Whitley that the Delta crisis is very serious. The Pleasant Hill forum, attended by Alameda and Contra Costa public officials, water agency staff, and business leaders, is a response to a federal judge's order that shut down Delta pumps. The pumps send water to Zone 7 and 28 other state water contractors.

The purpose of the shutdown was to protect the endangered Delta smelt at critical times in its mating patterns. The pumps

are now operating again. However, over the long run, the state is required by the court to come up with a schedule to protect the smelt. The schedule is expected to include shutoffs from time to time between December and June, reducing water agencies' shipments by as much as 30 percent each year.

Whitley, a private consulting environmental engineer based in Walnut Creek, gave his talk Aug. 13 at a forum convened by the Contra Costa Council. He is a board member of the council. The Tri-Valley Business Council (TVBC), which includes busi-

nesses in Zone 7's area, was also a sponsor.

Whitley said that when he met 15 years ago with Stanford professor John Gardner, founder of the civic reform organization Common Cause, Gardner told him that water was the key to the Bay Area's prosperity. The Delta had a lot to do with that supply. If the water picture is poor for Silicon Valley, then it will be poor for any chances of economic spin-off to such places as Livermore and Pleasanton, said Whitley. The industries in Silicaon Valley require a lot of water.

Gardner implied that if there

were any interference with the supply, it would be a disaster. It's clear that the Delta crisis is that kind of disaster, said Whitley. He said that there would be big impacts in much of the Eastbay, especially in Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin, which rely on Zone 7 for water. Zone 7 is vulnerable, because 85 percent of its water comes through the Delta.

The Delta is especially critical for the wine industry, since the vineyards draw water directly from the South Bay Aqueduct, said Whitley. Further, since water has such a profound link to

(See DELTA, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Views from the Tyler Ranch (Foothill Farms) are said to be spectacular.

## Ridge Parklands to Grow by 1467 Acres

The East Bay Regional Park District approved a deal at its Tuesday meeting that will add 1467 acres to ridge land park area.

EBRPD is teaming up with the Fremont-based Priem Family Foundation to acquire the Tyler Ranch property. The pricetag is \$6.63 million.

Ayn Wieskamp, a board member from Livermore, stated, "It's a great piece of property. You cannot believe the views. I could see my entire ward up to Brushy Peak and across the Bay."

Wieskamp said that district staff is always working with foundations to find the right connections to partner on land acquisition. The Priems live in Fremont. "They love hiking and mountain biking. They have a great appreciation for open space."

The property includes a flat area, which Wieskamp said would provide a perfect staging site. It's located near the entry into Niles Canyon. The potential exists to

establish connections to other trails and to provide picnic tables, and other amenities.

The land, rising over 2000 feet, is located to the west of Pleasanton Ridge. It is connected to the Pleasanton Ridge Park. The land provides a link in a proposed ridgeland hiking trail to run from the Pleasanton Ridge Park to Mission Peak Regional Park in Fremont.

The partnership includes a contribution from EBRPD to purchase 320 acres of the site. The land will then be sold to the EBRPD at a 20 percent discount. The three years also provides time for the district to raise the money.

Wieskamp says she is confident staff will raise the needed funds. "People like to know where their money is being spent. This land is valuable for

habitat, trails and as a watershed."

The new park addition will open to the public in four or five years, Wieskamp estimated. In addition to the three years to complete the acquisition, it will take an additional two years to prepare and adopt a land-use plan and to provide basic visitor facilities such as a parking lot at the staging area.

Curtis Priem of Fremont is creator and president of the foundation. He used to design computer graphics technology, and co-founded NVIDIA, a Santa Clara-based company that has 4,000 employees worldwide.

The vote to approve the deal took place Tuesday, Wieskamp said she expected it would be approved easily.

She stated, "What I really like about this deal is that it was a very open process. Hopefully other people deciding what to do with their money will look at similar proposals."

## Pleasanton Okays El Charro Pacts

Pleasanton endorsed two agreements that will now allow Livermore to move forward with the El Charro Specific Plan.

The Pleasanton City Council vote was unanimous. Approved were a cooperative agreement and a cost sharing agreement. Livermore approved the agreement earlier this year.

A cooperative agreement establishes the design, construction and vehicle access of El Charro. Signing onto the agreement are Livermore, Pleasanton, Alameda County, the Alameda County Surplus Property Authority and Vulcan Materials.

A cost sharing agreement looks at how the El Charro improvements, flood control, and I-580 interchange improvements will be paid for. Signing onto this agreement were Livermore, Pleasanton, and the Surplus Property Authority.

Councilmember Matt Sullivan wondered why Pleasanton would move ahead now, since it is not ready to develop.

City Manager Nelson Fialho said that Vulcan asked that prior to development on either side of El Charro, that issues be resolved regarding the use of the road. "Issues need to be resolved before Livermore can move forward with its specific plan."

Vulcan Materials had expressed concern about being able to retain access from its quarry operations to I-580 via El Charro. In addition, both Livermore and Pleasanton are planning developments along El Charro. Livermore approved a specific plan that includes a 42 acre Prime Outlet retail complex. In order for developments to move forward, El Charro would need to be improved and flood control issues dealt with.

The cooperative agreement assures continued access for Vulcan to I-580, including construction of a temporary road during construction. It establishes procedures and a timetable for construction of improvement

(See EL CHARRO, page 4)

## Positive Response from Hollywood Decision-Makers

A recent trip to Hollywood could focus the eyes of producers and directors on this area as a place to make films.

Livermore Film Commission Executive Director Dale Kaye, Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena, and Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty recently spent a week meeting with film decision makers.

Kaye declared, "It was a very successful trip." Kaye pointed out that there are already an enormous number of commercials filmed in this area. "They have a

strong economic impact. However, there is a far greater economic impact with a movie or a television series. There is a lot of competition out there to land a movie or series. You have to really, really reach out to get the attention of decision makers and be able to show them an area they hadn't thought of as a place to make movies," Kaye stated.

Meetings were held with representatives from Universal Studios, Paramount, Warner Bros., CBS, Sony, and Disney Features. (See HOLLYWOOD, page 4)

## Livermore Council City Candidates Discuss Issues

There are three candidates on the November 6 ballot vying for two seats on the Livermore City Council.

Two are incumbents, Lorraine Dietrich and Marj Leider. Jeff Williams is the only challenger.

For Leider and Dietrich, this will be the final time they can run for council as term limits kick in.

Each of the candidates was interviewed about such issues as North Livermore, the arts, and traffic. The interviews are in alphabetical order.

### LORRAINE DIETRICH

Lorraine Dietrich has served on the council since 1999, when she was appointed to the seat. She has been re-elected both of the times that she has run. Prior to serving on the council, Dietrich was a member of both the Design Review Committee and the Planning Commission.

Dietrich has a bachelors degree in political science and a masters degree in sociology. She and her family have lived in Livermore since 1979.

When asked whether the city should fund arts programs, Dietrich stated that it is appropriate to look at funding the arts as one of the choices the city makes.

"The arts add to the quality of life." She added that Livermore is different from many cities in that the park district is a separate agency. When the park district is part of the city, generally the arts are funded in much the same way as parks and other such programs.

Asked whether a development fee should pay for arts funding, Dietrich said that there is a committee that will be bringing a recommendation to the council. She said she is looking forward to what the recommendation might be, adding, "Post Prop-13, a lot of public amenities that would normally have been funded by the community are loaded onto development. A developer fee could be one source of funding. It should not be the sole source. The arts benefit everyone."

When it comes to the regional theater, Dietrich declared, "I've always had a quarrel with the location." She continued, "The last report the council heard from the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center was the most informative I have heard with regard to plans for

(See ELECTION, page 6)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Livermore and Amador Valley junior varsity water polo teams battled last week, with Amador winning 14 to 4. The Varsity Amador team won 20 to 0. In the photo, an Amador competitor wound up to try for a goal.

## Health Care, War Dominate Town Hall

Iraq and health care were the two leading topics brought up by some of the audience of approximately 50 who attended a joint town hall meeting hosted by Reps. Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) and Pete Stark (D-Fremont) on Sept. 8 in the Pleasanton City Council chambers.

It was believed to be the first town hall meeting by congress-

sional representatives in the council chambers, said Pleasanton Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, who was in attendance, as was councilman Matt Sullivan.

McNerney's 10th Congressional District includes most of Pleasanton, as well as land in the remainder of Alameda County, and Contra Costa, San Joaquin

(See TOWN HALL, page 4)

## Create a Town Where You Won't Need the Freeway

Livermore can best deal with Interstate 580's congestion by looking to itself and creating a self-contained community where "folks won't have to drive on that freeway."

So said candidate Jeff Williams at a Livermore City Council campaign kickoff Sunday.

The event, sponsored by Friends of Livermore (FOL), spotlighted council candidates Williams and Marj Leider, as well as Mayor Marshall Kamena, who is running unopposed. Leider is an incumbent. Williams seeks to unseat Lorraine Dietrich. The election is November 6.

The main issue in the election, said Williams, is transportation/traffic.

He said in his opinion I-580's congestion will never improve no matter what is done. He said the way to fight it is to work for a self-contained "complete community" where residents don't have to leave town to shop, work and attend events.

Williams and other speakers said Livermore is poised to become that kind of community.

They pointed to the down-

(See TOWN, page 4)

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**PET OF THE WEEK**  
Fiona, 2-years old, and her twin brother Bradley came to Valley Humane when their family moved away. She is a sweetie, and likes attention, being held, warm laps, and being brushed. She is declawed, so she needs to be an indoor-only kitty. For more information about Fiona, call

Valley Humane Society at 925-426-8656, or visit her at our Adoption Center at 3670 Nevada St. in Pleasanton's Stanley Business Park Wed-Sun 11 am-5 pm. Valley Humane Society holds mobile pet adoptions for dogs at Pet Extreme in Livermore every Saturday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

## Businesses to Celebrate Grand Openings with a Party

On September 22, the new businesses of the Livermore Valley Plaza will hold a grand opening celebration.

Festivities will take place from noon to 7 p.m. There will be food, fun, live entertainment and more. KKIQ will be on hand with music and give-aways from 2 to 4 p.m.

Horse drawn carriage rides


will be available from noon to 7 p.m.

Fire and Ice, Simply Fondue, Star Anise, Starbucks, Robek's Juice, Coldwell Banker, Platinum Group Funding and the Livermore Cinema have all teamed up to put on a party.

A portion of the profit from sales at the Livermore Valley Plaza businesses will be donated

to the Livermore Valley Education Foundation.

For more information, call 373-1795.



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Tony Award-winning actress/singer Bernadette Peters will dazzle you with her critically acclaimed performance.

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# VALLEY ROUNDUP

## Pleasanton Road Resurfacing

The City of Pleasanton is currently resurfacing a number of roads throughout the city, utilizing an open graded asphalt mix that helps reduce noise from vehicle tires. During the next week, several main travel routes will be affected and some traffic delays may be experienced.

Stoneridge Drive between Hopyard Road and Johnson Drive is scheduled for asphalt resurfacing Monday, September 17 through Wednesday September 19. Traffic will be restricted to one lane in each direction from 8:45 am to approximately 4:00 pm each day.

Valley Avenue between Quarry Lane and Santa Rita Road is scheduled for asphalt resurfacing Thursday, September 20 and Friday, September 21. Traffic will be restricted to one lane in each direction from 8:45 am to approximately 4:00 pm both days.

Division Street between Del Valle Parkway and St. Mary Street is scheduled for asphalt resurfacing for Monday, September 24. Traffic will be restricted to use by residents only during this period and other traffic will be detoured around the work area onto Fair Street, Rose Avenue and Pleasanton Avenue.

Programmable message boards are being placed at each site to inform motorists of ex-

pected delays on those days.

"This is an important project as it enhances the quality of our city roadways. We are, however, very aware of the impacts to motorists. The City and the paving contractor will be working to minimize delays as much as possible during morning and afternoon commute times," said Rob Wilson, Pleasanton's Director of Public Works.

## Police Make Arrest

Livermore police arrested Jerrold Rittmann for allegedly molesting children.

In July of 2007, an adult female reported to the Livermore Police Department that Rittmann molested her multiple times when she was a juvenile. During the subsequent investigation, Rittmann made an admission to molesting "others." However, he did not disclose the names of all the victims.

Rittmann is a long time Livermore resident. He is currently in custody at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin. His bail has been set at one million dollars.

The Livermore Police Department is requesting any additional victims or witnesses to contact Detective Elaine Briggs at (925) 371-4760.

# ValleyCare Volunteers Celebrate Being 90-years Young

## By Patricia Koning

The ValleyCare Health System Auxiliary held a very special birthday party last Saturday, celebrating seven of its members who are at least 90 years old. Edna Chance, Olivette Chinn, Alice Marsh, Helene Nagode, Maxine Spruiell, Irene Vitalis, and Estelle Volpini were the guests of honor.

The event was held at Valley Memorial in Livermore.

"We ought to pat someone on the back who turns 90 all we can," said Carol Andrews, a member of the ValleyCare Health System Auxiliary. "This shows you how long volunteers stay with us. Our members range in age from 14 years on up."

The birthday ladies share a long history of life in Livermore and working with the ValleyCare Health System Auxiliary. Volpini recalled being asked by her boss to solicit donations to start the hospital. She

later volunteered at the reception desk.

"I worked here from the day the hospital opened. I knew everybody in town," she said. "It is sure nice to be remembered."

Spruiell still works at the ValleyCare Thrift Shop two days a week. She describes her role as the "linen lady," washing and sorting linens for sale in the shop. Andrews and Kemi Lance, the Thrift Shop Director for the ValleyCare Health System Auxiliary, organized the event.

The ValleyCare Health System Auxiliary is a dedicated group of volunteers who provide services to patients, the hospital staff, and the visiting public. As of January 2007, there were 316 Active Members, 65 Associates (members who have retired from service), and 28 Junior Volunteers.

Volunteers work at the Information/Reception Desks and

Gift Shops at ValleyCare's Livermore and Pleasanton facilities, the Health Library in Pleasanton, and the Thrift Shop in Livermore. They serve as Hospital Tour Guides, assist staff members, and comfort patients. Special programs include decorating the hospitals at Christmas, preparing holiday food trays, and providing scholarships for Tri-Valley graduating seniors planning to major in a medical-related field.

The Health System Auxiliary also runs a Junior Volunteer program, a great opportunity for students considering a career in medicine. Participants must have completed their freshman year of high school and maintain a 3.0 GPA. For more information, call the Junior Volunteer Hotline at (925) 734-3357.

For more information on the ValleyCare Health System Auxiliary, visit [www.valleycare.com/v\\_v.html](http://www.valleycare.com/v_v.html) or call (925) 734-3368.

# Bill Would Speed Up Construction Of Vasco Road Barrier

Assemblyman Guy Houston (R-San Ramon), a long time advocate for critically needed safety improvements along Vasco Road in Eastern Contra Costa County, reports that his Assembly Bill 15, which will speed up the delivery of necessary funding and permits for the road has earned the support of the Legislature and now is before Governor Schwarzenegger for his approval.

Assembly Bill 15 would direct the Bay Area's regional transportation authority, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), to provide recom-

mendations to speed up any necessary permits and will assist in identifying funding sources to build a median barrier on the Contra Costa portion of Vasco Road. Vasco Road is under the authority and responsibility of Contra Costa and Alameda County.

While the Contra Costa County portion of Vasco Road has a large funding shortfall for making permanent safety improvements, the Alameda County segment has successfully obtained nearly \$28 million to make major improvements along a 1.3 mile section of the road.

Construction has already begun on the project which will straighten out the road, add truck climbing lanes, and widen the shoulders.

"All of us in Alameda County worked hard to put the funding together for our project," said Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty, who represents the Livermore residents that use Vasco Road. "As the Vice-Chairman of MTC, I applaud Assemblyman Houston's legislation that will work to address the unresolved safety concerns in Contra Costa County."

One source of funding for

Vasco Road improvements is Proposition 1B, the Transportation Infrastructure Bond. Houston pushed heavily for the bond in the Legislature and for its approval on the November 2006 ballot.

Since 2003, 17 people have been killed in accidents on Vasco Road, many of which were "cross over" accidents that could have been prevented by a concrete median barrier. The number of cars using Vasco Road daily has gone up from 16,000 a decade ago to now over 22,000.

"There is money out there for construction of a concrete me-

dian barrier," Houston said. "As specified by AB 15, we anticipate that MTC will provide the local direction to fund Vasco

Road. Alameda County has shown that with some hard work, that the funding can be put together," said Houston.

# Applications Sought for Conservation Cost Sharing

Conservation cost share applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) are being accepted now through Nov. 2, 2007 at USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service offices throughout California.

EQIP is a voluntary cost-share and technical assistance program offered by the NRCS to help promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals. In 2007, California approved 1190 EQIP contracts on over 447,000 acres of mostly private lands for almost \$48 million. Because it is a cost-share program, landowners contribute another \$48 million.

In Alameda County last year, NRCS contracts committed \$332,365.00 on 11,427.70 acres. With the landowners' share, \$664,700 was committed to environmental enhancements.

Ranchers and farmers interested in enhancing the natural resources on lands they own and manage are signing up for technical assistance and cost-share funding through the EQIP program. The program provides funding for practices to assist land managers in improving

natural resource conditions, including wildlife habitat, soil conservation, water quality, pest management, and more. Conservation practices include improving rangeland health and wildlife through pond restoration, water development, and grazing management, as well as improving irrigation systems and raptor habitat on vineyards. NRCS offers practices that reduce soil erosion and agricultural water runoff, improve rangeland health, reduce the use of chemical pesticides, and enhance wildlife habitat.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program can help in implementing water conservation, integrated pest management, nutrient management, air quality improvements, rangeland management, manure management and more. Assistance can be in the form of structures and conservation "hardware," such as cross-fencing or water facilities, as well as incentives payments for proper management to achieve environmental ben-

efits.


Applications are ranked based on scores reflecting their environmental benefit to national, statewide and locally identified resource priorities as well as a cost efficiency calculation. California statewide priorities for EQIP funding in 2008 include air quality, wildlife habitat and water quality needs related to confined animal feeding operations. Local priorities for EQIP in Alameda County include listed species habitat, water quality, soil conservation and water use efficiency. Applicants are encouraged to begin the process early to avoid unforeseen delays and assure their application can be considered for funding this year. A more detailed explanation of local goals and ranking processes can be found at [www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/](http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/). To apply in Alameda County, contact Morpheus Anima, Soil Conservationist at (925) 371-0154 ext.125 or stop by the NRCS office at 3585 Greenville Road, Suite 2, Livermore. The

office is located between Tesla Road and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.



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## Questions / Answers

The LVPAC Regional Theater

You are invited to attend a public forum to learn more about the Livermore Valley Performing Art Center's Regional Theater. Representatives of the City of Livermore and LVPAC will discuss the project and respond to your questions.

Thursday, September 27, 2007 ~ 7 PM  
The Bankhead Theater - 2400 First Street  
Information: 925-373-6100 or [www.livermoreperformingarts.org](http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org)

# CAMPAIGN

(continued from page one)

10, 7 p.m. at the Livermore City Council Chambers, 3375 Pacific Ave. Three candidates for the council will state their positions and answer questions presented by a League moderator. Following this, Mayor Marshall Kamena, who is running unopposed, will speak briefly. The candidates for the two open council seats are: Lorraine Dietrich, Marjorie Leider and Jeff Williams.

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# EDITORIALS

## Fresh Campaign Idea

It's rare to find a candidate with a truly fresh idea. We think Jeff Williams — who seeks a seat on the Livermore City Council — has that kind of idea when he says the key to fighting I-580 traffic congestion is to create a "complete community" where needs are met within the city itself.

The candidate pointed out at a campaign kickoff Sunday that I-580's traffic isn't likely to ever improve no matter what is done. He said Livermore must look to itself; it's leaders must work for a self-contained city with a cultural and commercial life and a downtown that keep people at home — a place, in Williams' words, where "folks won't have to drive on that freeway."

The issue goes hand-in-glove with the urban growth boundary. The UGB stops sprawl and redirects growth inward. With the downtown revitalization now taking place, it's possible to think Livermore can become the complete community envisioned by Jeff Williams.

## Protection For Non-Natives

The Livermore City Council has approved a tree preservation ordinance that will protect native trees bigger than 24 inches in circumference and non-native trees larger than 60 inches.

The approval was by a 4-1 vote: Marshall Kamena, Marj Leider, John Marchand and Doug Horner aye, Lorraine Dietrich no.

Dietrich supported virtually all of the provisions of the ordinance, but objected to applying them to non-native backyard trees.

Leider, the prime mover behind the ordinance, pointed out that such trees are part of Livermore's "urban forest."

Non-native trees are like immigrants. They take root and enrich their new home, adding to the shade, diversity and beauty. They deserve protection, too.

## TOWN HALL

(continued from page one)

and Santa Clara counties. Stark has only about 2000 Pleasanton residents in that sliver of the 13th Congressional District. It was the first time he had attended a town hall meeting anywhere in Pleasanton in modern times. Stark was elected to Congress in 1972 in the old 9th CD. The district then included Pleasanton, Livermore, and Danville, which was Stark's hometown then.

Stark has earned a reputation as a health care expert in Congress over the decades.

One questioner asked about when Congress would insist that health care insurers agree to insure people regardless of whether they have a pre-existing condition. The questioner developed such a condition after he lost his job. As a result he lost his health care insurance.

Stark said that the only way insurers will take people with pre-conditions is when everyone is required to have a health insurance plan. The firms make money on people they don't have to spend money on, said Stark. Universal health coverage has to be a requirement, and the cost spread among all the insured.

There has been much progress in health care reform, said Stark. Such establishment blocs as big corporations and Republican officials have come around to elements of reform. "You're starting to hear from three major companies. Why can't we move our employees early into Medicare for our retirees?" Five years ago, that was "socialism," said Stark, because it would be the expansion of the government-sponsored version of health insurance.

Progress is also seen in the actions of two Republicans, former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney, and California's Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

## EL CHARRO

(continued from page one)

ments to El Charro from Jack London Blvd. to the freeway. The portion of the road south of Jack London would remain a private road. Since it is anticipated that Livermore would develop its land first, Livermore would engineer, design and construct the improvements. Livermore's estimated cost would be \$3 million. There would be no cost to Vulcan or Pleasanton for the improvements.

Livermore would maintain the road until the Staples Ranch were annexed. Vulcan would contribute \$30,000 towards maintenance. Pleasanton would assume and be responsible for all of the maintenance, once it is annexed. The road would be within Pleasanton's city limits. Pleasanton would prepare a specific plan for the eastside that would include the eventual design and extension of El Charro to Stanley Blvd.

Once the agreement is in place, Vulcan agrees not to challenge developments in either city if they were consistent with the memorandum of understanding in Pleasanton and the specific plan in Livermore.

Both backed laws requiring health care coverage for at least the expansion of health care, a step toward fully comprehensive health care coverage, said Stark.

Commenting on a question about preventing deaths resulting from smoking and obesity, McNerney said that childhood obesity is a growing problem, especially in regard to high calorie foods. "We need to look at how we manage opportunities" to encourage prevention, he said.

Overtaxing tobacco, though, could drive the product to a black market, which "would have a detrimental effect on all," McNerney said.

Raising the tobacco tax in some measure may stop kids from experimenting with tobacco, said Stark. As far as healthy lifestyles are concerned, Stark said, "You can't make it happen with a law. You have to encourage it."

Several people asked questions about getting the United States out of Iraq. McNerney said that the issue is complicated. "We have to keep the troops safe." In addition, he noted, "The President has the cards in this game." We need to find agreement with the Republicans, so there is movement on the issue, said McNerney.

Several questions implied that Congress should take more power away from the President when it comes to war. Stark said that the War Powers Act, which he voted against during the Nixon administration, came about because it's important for the President to respond quickly in an emergency, for example, if Congress is in recess or at home on a weekend. The real issue concerning the War Powers Act is whether the White House occupant will use it wisely or not. A change in the White House in 2008 could remedy that problem, he said.

Under the cost sharing agreement, all costs for El Charro and flood control improvements are assumed by Livermore and the County's Surplus Property Authority, which owns Staples Ranch. Livermore's cost is estimated at \$16.1 million. The authority will give \$4.4 million to Livermore to offset the cost of the road and flood improvements.

The agencies will work with Zone 7 for flood reimbursements.

Livermore agrees not to challenge or oppose development on Staples Ranch if Pleasanton agrees to include disclosure of the presence of the airport to future residents. There would also be a manager hired by Pleasanton to take any complaints about the airport. The Stoneridge Dr. right of way would be retained.

Livermore will pay \$1 million toward the I-580 interchange improvements. An earlier agreement between the cities of Dublin and Pleasanton addresses the cost and construction of the interchange and who pays what.

Neither of the agreements will impact Pleasanton's ability to make land use decisions in the area.

# Conservancy Identifies Areas to Focus On

The Tri-Valley Conservancy has finished mapping the Tri-Valley and is in the process of putting together a conservation plan for the entire area.

Conservancy executive director Sharon Burnham noted that the mapping identified watersheds, streams, important habitat, vegetation, trails, habitat corridors, and high risk areas. "The focus of conservation will be on those areas most threatened. The conservancy is in the phase now of determining how to implement a plan and how to finance it," said Burnham.

Burnham made her presentation at the TVC's annual barbecue fundraiser.

She said that the board had not yet approved the plan.

The Conservancy was established as part of the South Livermore Area Plan. The focus has been on preserving land in that

portion of Alameda County. That focus will continue. "The job is not yet completed," stated Burnham. Currently there are 4100 acres under easement. Over the next three years, the goal is to raise that total to 5000 acres under easement in South Livermore. "We only work with willing sellers," added Burnham.

At the same time, there are conservation needs in other areas. She talked about habitat and trail corridors. One goal would be to eventually connect Mt. Diablo and Mt. Hamilton with such a corridor. There is a lot of habitat all through the Altamont area, she added. Another potential corridor would be from Del Valle to the future Chain of Lakes area along Stanley Blvd. that would continue to South Pleasanton and the ridgeland areas. "In the future it could be possible to walk from here all the way to

Richmond," declared Burnham.

In North Livermore, there are several areas of concern. One is Doolan Canyon, with a goal to preserve it to establish a greenbelt between Livermore and Dublin.

The alkali sink area is very important, said Burnham. "The birdsbeak is in danger of becoming extinct, because the water that flows into the sink is being diverted." The watershed needs to be preserved for this endangered species.

Currently, the Conservancy is working on an easement of 500 acres in the South Pleasanton hills (the Oak Grove development). "There is a need to look at a resource conservation plan for the South Pleasanton hills so that landowners there will know what areas to stay out of when proposing development," said Burnham.

## TOWN

(continued from page one)

town revitalization now occurring, development that includes a multi-screen cinema and two performing arts theaters.

They also pointed to Livermore's urban growth boundary (UGB), seeing it as the key to protecting not only open space, but also the in-fill thrust of the redevelopment that is transforming downtown.

Both Williams and Leider expressed wholehearted support for the UGB, pledging that on all the issues pertaining to it they will represent the 72% voter majority that rejected the Pardee development. Pardee would have involved urbanization outside the UGB.

The Springtown Golf Course issue was also much discussed at

the FOL event. The city-owned course is floundering financially. It's been rumored the city might sell the property to a housing developer.

Springtown homeowners are up in arms. Some of them attended the event, to be assured by all the candidates that the City Council won't abandon them.

Marj Leider reported that the golf course's present operator won't be retained when the lease expires. She said the operator of the city's other golf course, Las Positas, has been asked to look at Springtown, with an eye toward taking it over. Leider said that operator has done wonders bringing Las Positas back from a similar decline.

"No stone will be left

turned to make sure Springtown remains open space," stated Williams.

Mayor Kamena focused on transportation and traffic as well, talking about the regional rail plan endorsed by the city council last week. Kamena, who has been credited with bringing all of the parties together to reach agreement on a policy statement, has said that the rail plan is quite possibly one of the most important transit items the council has considered.

The plan is a blueprint for rail improvements for the next 50 years. It includes BART, the ACE train and high speed rail.

FOL honored former councilmember Tom Reitter, Councilmember John Marchand

A determination will be made whether a similar conservation plan is needed for North Livermore. Currently, a group led by Zone 7 is looking at streamlining the permit process in the area. To do that they would need a conservation plan.

To the east of Livermore, there is a plan to build a trail along the aqueduct. The Conservancy would keep an eye on that proposal to make sure it doesn't get lost.

To accomplish the work outside of South Livermore, the conservancy will need to raise money. Money it currently has comes from South Livermore as mitigation money for development there. Those funds must be spent in South Livermore.

"There is a lot of work to be done, both in planning and financing any conservation," concluded Burnham.

called him a mentor, telling how when he, Marchand, first became a candidate, running at that time for the Zone 7 board, it was the result of Reitter's encouragement. Jeff Williams said he, too, considers Reitter his mentor, and probably wouldn't be a candidate in this race if he hadn't known the former councilman.

Marchand exclaimed, "Tom Reitter has been a great friend of open space, a great friend of the urban growth boundary, a great friend of Livermore."

FOL used the occasion to sign up volunteers for the upcoming campaign. The group was urged by Mayor Kamena and Councilmembers Marchand and Doug Horner to support Leider and Williams.

## DELTA

(continued from page one)

the economy, any economic slide in the region would also hurt the quality of life, including recreational and cultural aspects.

The Tri-Valley's location, away from the Bay and ocean, make it especially vulnerable. Whitley said that businesses near the ocean, such as Dow chemical and the oil refineries in Richmond, can look at building desalination plants to process the water near them for a back-up supply. The Tri-Valley has no such ability.

Whitley mentioned hospitals as institutions with a critical need for a reliable water supply. He said that if John Muir and Kaiser hospitals in Walnut Creek don't have enough water, they may have to transfer patients to waterside hospitals that could use desalination for a back-up supply. He did not mention ValleyCare and San Ramon Medical Center in the Tri-Valley. However, they would be in the same landlocked category as the Walnut Creek institutions.

Whitley urged Valley business leaders to work closely with Zone 7 Water Agency on fixing the Delta problem, so that it wouldn't be a detriment for economic vitality.

Duerig said that Toby Brink, executive director of the TVBC, called her Monday to set up a meeting with Zone 7 staff to explore the extent of the problem, and see what businesses might do. Brink attended Whitley's talk, but was unavailable for comment before the Independent's deadline.

### ZONE 7 MANAGER MORE OPTIMISTIC

Although Duerig was not able to be at the forum, she commented on Whitley's statements, and presented a more moderate outlook, with less cause for worry.

## HOLLYWOOD

(continued from page one)

Kamena noted that there were usually four and sometimes as many as seven executives at the sessions. "I think the lowest ranking official was a vice president. Dale Kaye really set up the sessions with decision makers," he said.

The three showed the executives what Kaye called a production guide, basically locations where filming could take place. "They started seeing possibilities," Kaye stated.

"It was important that before we went down, we had collateral to convince them this is the place to come," emphasized Kaye.

Also important, Kaye believes, is having the mayor and supervisor along. They lent a strong voice to the talks.

While the focus is on Livermore, representatives from Pleasanton and Dublin are part of the Film Commission.

"Disney saw the trains in Sunol. It's like the old west. Disney was very interested in a project there," said Kaye. "Dublin has tall office buildings that we don't have. They have that marvelous little church. Pleasanton has its downtown. This is a very rich area for period pieces."

For one thing, the vineyards in Livermore will still have the ability to draw water from the South Bay Aqueduct, because Zone 7 can manage things so that more of the urban water use is taken from underground storage, and less has to be taken directly from the South Bay Aqueduct at key peak times in the summer.

In addition, hospitals are not under any more threat than any other water user, said Duerig. "There is no need to focus on that. However, the community might have to look at conservation measures. For a hospital, that would probably mean (voluntary rationing of) landscaping," she said.

The Delta crisis opens a big role for recycled waste water, said Duerig. Recycled water is used to irrigate some median strips and golf courses in San Ramon and Dublin, with water provided by the Dublin San Ramon Services District wastewater treatment plant in Pleasanton. More agencies will probably look at such uses, she said.

### DROUGHT WOULD ADD TO PROBLEM

Overall, there won't be any need for mandatory water rationing by Zone 7 this year or in 2008. Zone 7 will be pumping from its two-year water bank beneath the Valley's floor to fill in any shortfall from Delta cutbacks.

However, the underground storage must be replenished with more state project water in the future. Replenishment could be a problem. If a long drought hits the state, the state Department of Water Resources would cut back everyone's water allotments for each year. On top of that, the halts in pumping to protect the smelt would further cut into Zone 7's ability to obtain water.

Lack of sufficient replenishment over a long drought (five

to seven years) would force mandatory rationing, said Duerig. That not only puts a strain on residents and businesses, but also cuts into Zone 7 water revenue, since less water is being sold. Then, water rates would have to be raised to some extent to offset ongoing costs. Even aside from that, rates will go up as part of solving the Delta crisis, said Duerig.

Zone 7 already encourages voluntary water conservation, with a list of suggestions at its web site. Residents have been good about following them, Zone 7 officials have said.

Looking at the big picture of the Delta crisis, Duerig said that "Whitley is right. We are in a crisis. However, we are working hard to find interim solutions to minimize the impact," said Duerig. Even if a long-term solution, such as a canal or pipeline to carry the water around the Delta, couldn't be put in place for 10 or 15 years, "there are things that can be put in much sooner, maybe even next year. Every time one of those interim baby steps is taken, it helps shore up our reliability to (bring in) water from the Delta," she added.

"We all will be experiencing change in the way we look at the Delta, and how we operate it," she said. Zone 7 has put staff time and agency budget money for several years into Bay Delta Conservation Plan conferences with all the stakeholders. The agency's former general manager, Dale Myers, who retired in February, continues his work on the problem as a consultant for Zone 7.

### WENTE HOPEFUL THAT AG WILL GET ENOUGH

Phil Wente, one of the family owners of Wente Vineyards, said that it would be speculative to try to predict what will happen in the Delta crisis. However, he

noted that Valley grape growers are dependent on the South Bay Aqueduct deliveries. The peak hot summer months are especially critical. If Zone 7 comes up with a priority list for water during a difficult drought situation, Wente would like to see the growers not lag behind the status of commercial customers, since the growers, too, are business operators.

Agriculture has done well in the past, said Wente. Even when the state cut Zone 7 water deliveries by 50 percent, the agency was able to deliver a full allotment to agriculture, because of the important need to water the crops, and the relatively small percentage of Zone 7 water used by agriculture, he said.

Wente wasn't at the Pleasant Hill conference, but he said he did talk to Brink later about it. He hopes that Zone 7 will include growers in the conversation about finding solutions.

### SLIGHT PREFERENCE FOR URBAN WATER USERS

Duerig clarified Zone 7 policy about water for agriculture. Zone 7 doesn't have control over the residential and commercial customers' amounts of water, said Duerig. It is up to the four Valley retailers to make that determination, she said. The four retailers are Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin San Ramon Services District and the private California Water Service in Livermore.

Zone 7 does have direct control over the allotments for agriculture, said Duerig. "It's a long, complicated calculation," she said. The net result is a slight preference for residential and commercial customers, said Duerig.

Also, in asking for voluntary cutbacks, Zone 7 goes first to agriculture to see how much growers can cut back to address the problem, she said.

Island offer tax breaks. Kaye said. "We acknowledged the incentives upfront. We made it clear that we would do what we could to help the bottom line, without offering cash incentives. It's all about the bottom line."

Unraveling the red tape helps lower costs. There are things such as not requiring permits and allowing free use of public buildings that also reduce production costs. Helping to lower police rates and working with local hotels to establish really good rates are other ways.

Kamena said one thing he wasn't aware of was how few films are made in California. People in southern California have become jaded and object to the films. In addition, filming in California is expensive. One of the contributions the city and county can make to encourage filming is provide rapid response time with regard to street closures. That contributes to lower costs and impact the bottom line.

Haggerty pointed out that he brings a regional perspective to the table. He said that the county would be able to expedite permits and help to make a shoot successful in the unincorporated areas.

In addition to locations, and incentives, Kaye noted there are enough people to produce three union films at the same time in the Bay Area. Unions are an important part of the equation, she added.

"The visit was a whole new experience," stated Kamena. He said he hopes to invite three studio representatives to come to Livermore. "All of them are golfers. So, I'm thinking during the PGA event would be a good time. Only one person we talked to had even heard of Livermore. I was led to understand that this was the first time in six years a film commission from California had contacted the studios in an effort to attract filmmakers. We received a great response."

Haggerty agreed. He declared, "I was blown away by the response we got. I think this area is well positioned to attract filmmakers. It is close to Los Angeles. There is a diversity of buildings and locations. The airport is a valuable asset. We need to continue to go there and sell the story of Livermore and Alameda County. I believe we will be able to attract commercials, feature films and sitcoms."

**The Independent**  
(INLAND VALLEY PUBLISHING CO.)

Publisher: Joan Kinney Seppala  
Associate Publisher: David T. Lowell  
Editor: Janet Armantrout  
Sales Manager: Jessica Scherer

The Independent is published every Thursday at 2250 First St., Livermore, CA 94550  
(Mailing address: PO Box 1198, Livermore, CA 94551)  
The Independent is delivered by the United States Post Office.  
Advertising rates and subscription rates may be obtained by calling  
(925) 447-8700 during regular business hours. • Fax: (925) 447-0212 E-MAIL: editmail@compuserve.com

# If Growth Goes Higher, Pleasanton Could Look At 3rd High School

In view of the high student enrollments at Pleasanton's two comprehensive high schools, and a potential raising of the city population cap, there should be some community discussion of whether building a third high school is appropriate, according to school trustee Chris Grant.

Grant made his remarks during a special workshop held prior to the regular school board meeting Sept. 11. Trustee Steve Brozovsky mentioned that the city might project more than 29,000 ultimate residential units as part of potential general plan changes. Current plans are for 27,300 units.

Grant said that if there were more than 29,000, then "we need to look at our overall capacity and options around a third high school. In the spirit of holding an active dialogue, it would be helpful to the community to hear thoughts on the size of the comprehensive high schools today, as well as a school with 100 or 150 additional students versus 1500 or 1700 (split among three high schools)."

Grant told superintendent John Casey that he would want to hear a report that included "the impact, from Casey's perspective, on the curriculum you'd offer, and the quality of life for the students."

The discussion about a third

high school was kicked off at the meeting by audience member and parent Julie Testa, a long-time advocate of more school facilities to house elementary and high school students. Her contention is that Pleasanton already is at the crisis point with more students coming into the schools than predicted, and little space left to accommodate expansion.

The school campuses are much smaller in area than would be permitted if new high schools were to be built. The board is talking about adding more facilities built at the current locations, doing such things as expanding the gyms and adding classrooms. Other improvements would add up to a total of \$51 million. The top tier of priorities would cost about \$18 million, which is all the district can afford between now and 2012.

Testa's suggestion is to find a way to build a third campus to take the pressure off the two schools. This has been a district discussion from time to time, with parents raising it over the years. Testa said at the meeting that the last time any board took a stand on high school capacity was in 2000, when it said the target for growth at Amador Valley and Foothill high schools was 2000 students on each campus.

Both campuses are far beyond that, as was announced during

the regular meeting, with Amador at 2557 students and Foothill at 2337 students. There have been facilities expansions at both campuses to accommodate the growth, and more are planned. Classroom expansions could go up to two stories in theory. In practice, portables are planned, so classrooms must be limited to one story.

The district is uncertain how long the extra capacity would be needed. Demographic projections underestimated this year's growth, and the city is talking about possibly raising the housing cap. On the other hand, eventually the city will achieve build-out, and school enrollment will decline. Testa pointed out that enrollment at all school levels came in this year above demographer's predictions, which had also predicted a rise.

Casey said later, during the regular meeting, "Budgetarily, we are pleased to see the growth (of 91 more students at K-12 than expected by the demographer). It shocked us a little bit about where this might go." Casey said that the current figures for Amador Valley and Foothill already approach what the demographer predicted for 2009.

At the workshop, Testa said that if the board continues on the current course, it should include the "enrollment figure that will

exist at those two campuses." Testa said, "I don't think it's too late to look at alternatives. I'm disappointed that this board isn't being more aggressive in looking at alternatives. There was a halfhearted attempt in the past. There was a board that was unwilling to consider a real alternative, and now a new generation of students are paying the price," said Testa.

Testa urged the board to show leadership and look at other possibilities. "Don't just continue to blindly follow the poor leadership of past boards," she said.

In the past, the argument against having a third high school has been that bigger schools allow more course offerings, because there are enough students to organize a class in some subjects.

Lary Aladeen, a Foothill history teacher now on leave as the teachers union president, told the board that when he came as a student from Hayward to Amador many years ago, he had been in a German class. However, Amador had only 500 students. There was no German class, so he had to take a correspondence class from the University of California.

Amador principal Bill Coupe said that the economy of scale with a bigger enrollment does have advantages. "We can have

more courses. Size is not important. How adults relate to kids is important. We can break into smaller learning communities," said Coupe.

John Dwyer, the new principal at Foothill, said that he agreed with Coupe. He referred to big improvements in Foothill scores on the recently released API results for last year. "Larger schools can offer more," said Dwyer.

Kevin Johnson, who left Foothill to become the district's second education supervisor, stated, "Our schools are performing well at the current sites."

Board president Jim Ott asked Johnson, "What about kids feeling lost at larger schools?" Johnson replied, "The ratio of adults to students doesn't change (from one campus size to another)."

On the broader topic of high school expansion, which trustees have discussed several times in the past, trustee Pat Kernan asked the staff to come up with financing mechanisms that could fund the second tier of priorities. The first tier already has a plan for the \$18 million it would need. The remaining \$31 million or so will be the real challenge.

Casey said his staff will look over Kernan's request, and return

with more information about the expansion picture.

## CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES GIVEN 4 PERCENT RAISE

At the board's regular meeting, trustees unanimously approved a contract to give the district's classified employees a 4 percent cost of living raise, passing along what the state funding is giving the district. There were also minor changes in some of the contract language.

The board also recognized Pleasanton Schools Educational Enrichment's (PSEE) contribution of \$100,000 this year for arts and science programs. This was the first time that PSEE hit the \$100,000 mark in donations. It currently has \$800,000 to support the annual endowment.

PSEE president Denise Watkins told the board that since its inception in 1999, the group has given the district \$210,000. The long-term goal is to have \$5 million to \$10 million in the principal or corpus, and be able to establish the full arts program, K-12. The program was canceled as a result of state school funding shortfalls.

Grant praised Watkins for her leadership abilities, especially in light of the fact that all of the PSEE members are volunteers.

## No Relief for Park District in Tax Take-Away

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) Board of Directors on Wednesday heard a presentation by consultant Johan Klehs regarding the lobbying effort of the past fiscal year. The goal was to affect positive change in the District's share of property tax shifted to the Education Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF).

The LARPD joined a consortium of other park and recreation districts to hire consultants to try to recover some of the 48% of voter approved funds earmarked for special districts such as LARPD that have been diverted to other areas of the state budget. While the effort did assist in educating several legislators about the problem, it was unable to impact the next cycle of the state budget and secure more of the District's property taxes back to the district, according to Klehs.

One of the problems said

Klehs is that because of term limits, people serving today were not in office when the property tax shifts began. Some of the issues raised by the coalition during talks with legislators were the following: a diminished local capacity to respond to problems; counties are not investing in property tax collection because of the cost; and there is a reduction in interest on the part of cities and counties to promote development because they are unable to rely on property taxes as much as they have in the past.

Klehs pointed out that one irony is that the money has been moved to education. At the same time, park districts and cities have had to reduce education programs that they provided.

He suggested that LARPD undertake a lobbying effort on its own during the next budget session. In addition, an effort should be made to have repre-

sentatives sponsor bills in the Senate and Assembly to limit the amount of money the district loses.

"The fact that special districts have begun this effort is a good first step," said LARPD General Manager Tim Barry. "For the past 15 years, state legislators have tapped into nearly half of our budget, which the public specifically voted to allocate to special districts. We believe this funding should be restored to where voters intended it to go," he added.

The Board also held a workshop to review public comment from the first public meeting on the Robertson Park Master Plan. Among the issues discussed were overnight stabling for horses and overnight stays for visitors attending special events at the park, expansion of the sports fields, parking at the site, and opportunities and restrictions

posed by Zone 7 flood control planning along the Arroyo Mocho. The board also heard requests by the equestrian community for an expansion of equestrian facilities within the park.

Another public meeting will be organized for the November/December timeframe prior to preparing a draft report. The entire process should conclude by the end of the year.

In other action, the Board approved a contract for paving the Sunken Gardens Bicycle Stunt Course, which will be located at 3800 Pacific Avenue in Livermore. The course, which will be adjacent to the existing skate park, will feature a six-foot half-pipe, quarter pipes, a street spine and a concrete barrier that can be used by all skill levels. The bike ramp equipment will be installed after the asphalt pad has been laid out. The course is scheduled to open by the end of the year.

## Public Invited to Tour New Performing Arts Theater

The Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center's new Bankhead Theater will be dedicated on Saturday, September 29, starting at 11am. The public is invited to attend. Following the ribbon cutting ceremony, which will include remarks by Mayor Marshall Kamena and entertainment provided by students from Livermore High School, the theater will be open from noon to 4 pm for a public open house. Free refreshments will be provided.

"We're excited to be able to present this magnificent new theater to the citizens of Livermore and the Tri-Valley," said Len Alexander, LVPAC's Executive Director. "Over 500 individuals, business, corporations and associations have each contributed from \$25 to more than \$1 million to help us achieve this long-awaited moment in the community's arts and cultural history."

The theater, a \$24 million project, has been financed through a combination of private fundraising - \$13.5 million has

been raised to date toward a \$15 million goal - and a dedicated revenue stream of \$.25 per ton of trash deposited at the County's Altamont waste processing facility. The City of Livermore, through its redevelopment agency, contributed approximately \$1 million to acquire the site for the building. Alexander continued, "Dedicating the Bankhead Theater on September 29th will complete our pledge to the community to build a first-class performance space on time and on budget."

The Bankhead Theater will be the new home for some of the Valley's performing arts organizations, including Del Valle Fine Arts, Livermore Valley Opera, Livermore-Amador Symphony, Pleasanton Playhouse, California Independent Film Festival and Valley Dance Theater. In addition, the theater, with more than 140 events currently scheduled for the 2007-08 season, will host visiting performing groups from around the Bay Area as well as

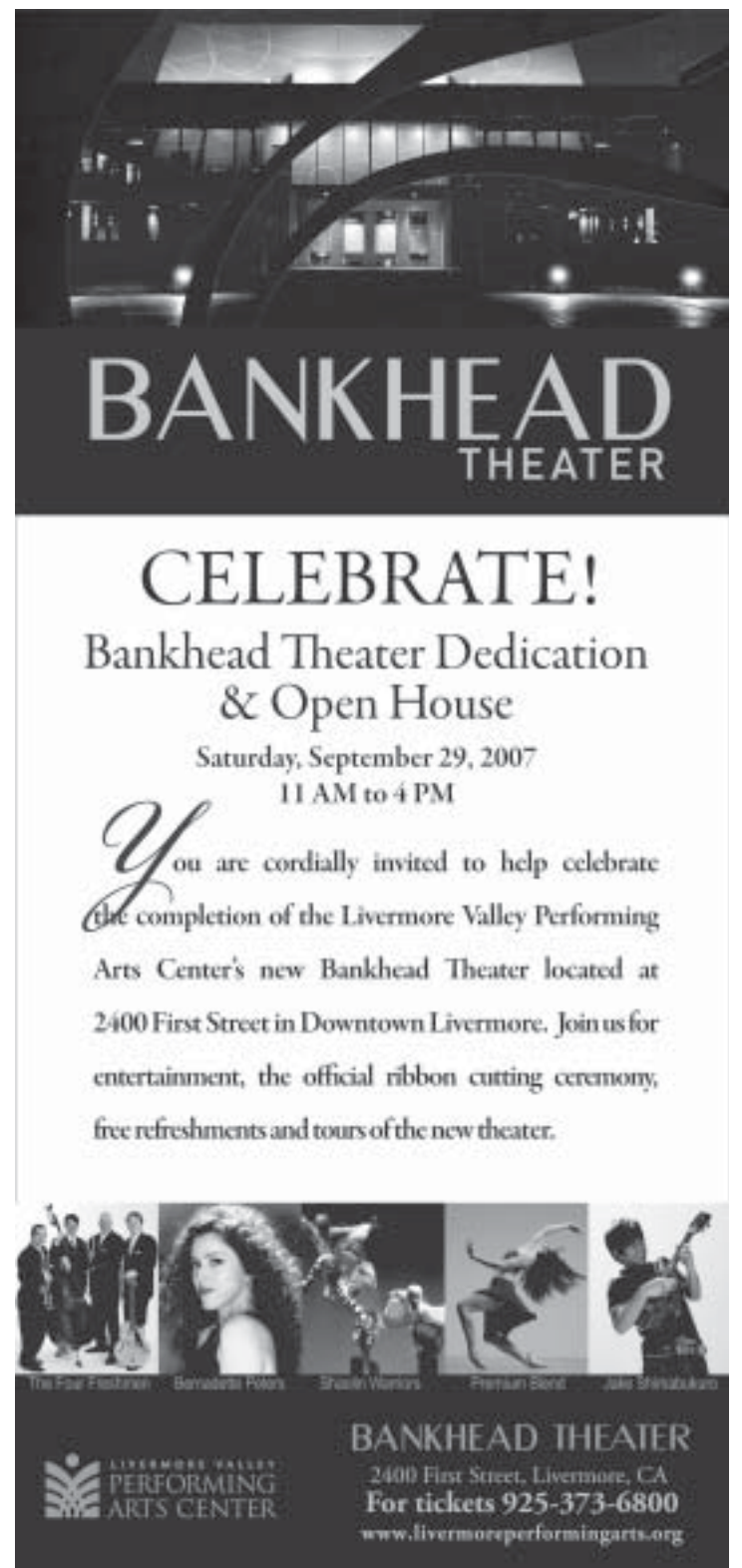
educational programs and corporate meetings and seminars.

Beyond resident companies and rental activities, LVPAC itself will present over two dozen nationally and internationally acclaimed ensembles and artists ranging from the *Shaolin Warriors*, direct from mainland China, to *Riders in the Sky*, a western singing and comedy group, during Rodeo Weekend next spring. Within the LVPAC Presents program, every discipline, from music to dance to drama, is represented, offering audiences a wide variety of performance events to enjoy.

To celebrate its grand opening, the theater will present two weeks of non-stop performance activities, showcasing both resident and visiting performers, beginning on September 29th with the dedication and open house and concluding with a combined Livermore Valley Opera, Livermore-Amador Symphony and Shakespeare's Associates presentation on October 13. In addi-

tion, there will be various free pre-show performances outdoors on the Shea Homes Stage in the Livermore Valley Plaza each evening. The highlight of the two weeks of festivities is the October 6th Gala Benefit starring Broadway star Bernadette Peters in concert with her thirty-piece orchestra. Gala tickets, featuring pre-show party and post-show reception, at \$750 and \$500, are still available in limited numbers.

The Bankhead Theater ticket office is open Monday through Saturday from 12 noon to 6pm. On performance evenings the ticket office remains open until 9pm. To order tickets for all performances at the Bankhead Theater, call 925-373-6800 or visit the calendar and ticketing section of the LVPAC website: [www.livermoreperformingarts.org](http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org).



**BANKHEAD THEATER**

**CELEBRATE!**


Bankhead Theater Dedication & Open House

Saturday, September 29, 2007  
11 AM to 4 PM

You are cordially invited to help celebrate the completion of the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center's new Bankhead Theater located at 2400 First Street in Downtown Livermore. Join us for entertainment, the official ribbon cutting ceremony, free refreshments and tours of the new theater.

*The Four Seasons* *Bernadette Peters* *Shaolin Warriors* *Pearlman Band* *Jake Shabazz*

**BANKHEAD THEATER**  
2400 First Street, Livermore, CA  
For tickets 925-373-6800  
[www.livermoreperformingarts.org](http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org)



**Notice of Commission/Committee Vacancies (Extended Recruitment)**

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

- \* Civic Arts Commission
- \* Human Services Commission
- \* Economic Vitality Committee

(1) Biomedical Business Representation  
(1) Environmental Community Representative  
(1) Commercial Services Firm Representative  
(1) Telecommunications Representative

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Call for Applicants**

The City of Pleasanton has vacant seats on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). The BPAC is an informal working group, which provides advice and recommendations to City staff and consultants on all matters relating to bicycle and pedestrian facilities planning. The BPAC will oversee the development of the City of Pleasanton Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan.

The four vacant seats are designated for Pleasanton residents (including one representative of the youth community) who are interested in providing input on bicycle and pedestrian issues, and who are able to attend evening meetings.

BPAC meetings will be held at the City of Pleasanton offices located at 200 Old Bernal Avenue, in downtown Pleasanton. The appointment term is for two years. Additional information may be received by contacting Janis Stephen in the Traffic Engineering Division (925) 931-5671 or at [jstephen@ci.pleasanton.ca.us](mailto:jstephen@ci.pleasanton.ca.us).

Applications for commissions and committees are available at the City Clerk's office, 123 Main Street, Pleasanton or on the city's website at [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us](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, OCTOBER 12, 2007**. Postmarks are not accepted.



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# ELECTION

(continued from page one)

theater." Dietrich noted that staff and consultants are looking into the plans, as well as addressing questions raised by the council with regard to the theater funding. One of those relates to the proposal to use the redevelopment tax increment. Dietrich said it would be nice to know what other things the city might do with the money and what the relative benefits to the community might be. She mentioned downtown parking as a potential use for the money.

Affordable housing is not an issue that has an easy answer, declared Dietrich. "I think the city has done a pretty good job of putting together a fairly comprehensive approach to providing housing for a variety of folks from new teachers to retirees and all sorts of people in-between." She pointed to the complex on Mocho Street for developmentally disabled, Habitat for Humanity homes, the Carmen Avenue project under construction, and ValleyCare senior housing with its "huge affordability component" as examples.

Dietrich added that given that the city is approving mainly infill development, it is limited in moving forward with such ideas as "affordable by design" housing.

What happens in the incorporated areas of North Livermore is "up to the voters these days," said Dietrich when asked her vision for the area. "The process is that if someone wants to propose a development, voters will make the choice whether or not it can move forward," she explained.

The city is looking at opportunities to preserve some areas, Dietrich added. Doolan Canyon is the highest priority for acquisition of open space. Dietrich noted that she was a member of the committee that established an MOU with the City of Dublin, stating that preserving the canyon would be a priority for both communities.

The alkali sink, with the endangered birdsbeak, has recently been the subject of a lot of attention, continued Dietrich. "It could be the poster child for the need for comprehensive planning. Projects approved by previous councils impact the watershed that feeds the sink. Water is one of the crucial factors in protecting the species. Now we're looking at doing the best we can to preserve it."

In the area of North Livermore that is already developed, Dietrich said there is a need to have some conversation with residents to talk about priorities for amenities and what resources might be brought to bear. Among the issues raised by residents is preservation of the Springtown Golf course. Dietrich said she had heard from people who say they like to play there because the course is small and costs less. Word of mouth seems to be the way people hear about it. "Marketing and management need to be addressed as a way to bring in other people's money to make the golf course a success. It might be a good idea to look at trends in golf and adapt the course to meet a trend."

As for other amenities in North Livermore, "Until we have a conversation with the people out there, I have no preconceived ideas about what should happen," stated Dietrich.

Livermore, along with the rest of the country, has a problem with maintaining its infrastructure given the funding available. "It is something the city needs to look at very seriously. We need to talk to the community, to let residents know where we are, how we got there and how we will not get there again if they help us. There will probably be a need to involve asking the voters to help fund the maintenance at some point in time," Dietrich stated. She added that the city could look at various levels of funding including determining which repairs are needed to avoid an immediate crisis, which would result in a crisis further down the line, and which projects would just be nice to complete.

Traffic is impacted by people having to commute from their affordable homes to the east to jobs in the East Bay and Tri-Valley, said Dietrich. The focus should be on making it easier to get folks where they want to go without having to take their cars. One idea she likes is the regional rail proposal. Dietrich believes that would provide the potential for a lot of solutions in the long term. She stated, "The comprehensive hookup of mass transit

is the only thing that will make a dent in people using their cars."

There are fewer candidates this election. "One way to look at it is that people are really happy with the way most things are going. The downtown is spectacular. There are new dining and shopping opportunities," Dietrich declared.

When asked about sports facilities and how school, park district and city could work together, Dietrich said that the school district contributes by making sports fields available for practice. The park district seems to have difficulty finding funding for new facilities. As a result, the city has not kept pace with the need.

Airport noise is a continuing issue. Dietrich stated that she hopes that folks will have patience in seeing how the recently approved changes function at the airport. She believes residents will see the same level of flight traffic they would have seen without the changes. It may be there will be fewer flights, because planes will not have to fly elsewhere for repairs and then return.

Dietrich sees the airport as a significant resource to the region and Livermore, in particular, in case of a natural disaster.

One of the programs Dietrich is involved in is "community of character." She sees it as a way to start a conversation about what constitutes the best people can be and how to get there. The school district has piloted and implemented it at a number of schools. Kids are learning new vocabulary about how to talk to and treat each other in a way that is more respectful. If young people use the tool set, it ought to slide over into the whole community. "One of the things about Livermore that people prize is the small town feeling, the way people interact. The community of character will enhance that interaction," believes Dietrich.

When it comes to limiting the time people speak at the council, Dietrich said there is a need to balance hearing from the community and getting business done. She believes that balance has been struck.

When asked if gang activity is an issue, Dietrich notes there is a gang task force that has implemented a number of approaches to deal with the problem. "The police are taking a very proactive approach to the problem."

Dietrich believes the city is doing a number of things very well. "I think the downtown is looking good. The South Livermore Plan implementation is winding up and is an outstanding result."

"Five or ten years ago, the city was probably overbalanced on the side of producing single family housing. In the coming years, we might look at whether we have gone too far in correcting the imbalance," Dietrich said in response to a question about whether the city is moving in the right direction.

Her own goals would be to leave the city a better place than she found it. "Four years from now, I would like to leave the city in the best economic health it could be, to have dealt with the infrastructure deficit, to have reserves in good shape, to ensure enterprise funds are self supporting, and to make sure that service needs are met. With an increase in tourism, we may see a need to increase funding for services such as police and fire," said Dietrich.

Money is an ongoing issue. "Any problem we want to fix requires resources." She would work to bring in significant revenue generators such as auto dealers with their low service needs. The outlet mall will generate tax revenues. "As we grow our tax base, and have more discretionary income, we can have more choices about how we allocate resources. It sure would be nice to get to that point. That's the direction I'd like to help drive the city," stated Dietrich.

## MARJ LEIDER

Marj Leider and her family have lived in Livermore for 50 years. She is a chemist. Prior to retiring, she worked in that capacity at both the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Wente Vineyards.

Leider served on the Design Review Committee, the Planning Commission, and the General Plan Update Committee.

Asked whether the city should provide funding for the arts in its budget, Leider noted that it is

important to have a source of funding for nonprofits, such as arts groups. "They need matching funds when applying for grants." Leider is supportive of the proposed fee on development. She said she would like to see a comparison between what Livermore is proposing as an arts fee and what other cities charge to make sure the level of the fee is appropriate.

According to Leider, the regional theater is important. It would add to making Livermore a cultural center. Leider said that while there have been concerns expressed about how construction of the theater would be funded, she is confident that the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center and the city will work out an acceptable package.

Affordable housing is an ongoing issue. Leider points out that she proposed requiring developers to build 15 percent (inclusionary) of their projects as affordable. "It has been successful," Leider explains that by spreading the affordable units among a variety of developments, the city has not established "ghettos." She added that many cities require 20% inclusionary. "I would not be adverse to asking the city to raise the requirement to that level."

Other ways the city could provide more affordable housing would be to work through such agencies as Eden Housing and other nonprofits to build the housing, commented Leider.

North Livermore has been an area of controversy for many years. Leider believes that establishing some type of sustainable agriculture there would help protect the area from future development demands. Recycled water could be piped to the area to provide a water source to add to the value of the land as agriculture.

"People have to understand that the city is not going to annex the area. When that becomes obvious, perhaps landowners will be willing to look at some agricultural use to provide greater economic value to their land," stated Leider. The council should continue to defend the urban growth boundary.

The Doolan Canyon area is important to preserve as a greenbelt between Livermore and Dublin. Leider said she was a member of a committee that met with representatives from Dublin to discuss a memorandum of understanding that neither city would develop the canyon. "Dublin still agrees that it would bring development up to 3000 feet of the canyon. I hope Livermore will use some of the mitigation funds from the El Charro project to purchase easements in Doolan Canyon. Perhaps fees from the Altamont settlement could buy parts of it."

In the part of North Livermore that is developed, residents have been upset over what they perceive as attempts by the city to eliminate the golf course in Springtown. They told the council that the area has long been ignored. Leider said she understands their frustration. A library and a swimming pool would be nice. "I am willing to work with the people living there to put together a master plan listing amenities they would like to see built, then work to make them a reality."

The city has deferred maintenance to infrastructure because the state began taking away money from cities. Leider commented that she believes the city has done as good a job as possible in maintaining the city given the money that was available. "However, it's not smart to defer maintenance, because it costs more in the long run," she added. "I think the city will have to consider a bond or tax measure to repair and maintain its infrastructure," Leider stated.

Traffic is an ongoing issue. Leider believes that connecting Jack London Blvd. in Livermore with Stoneridge Drive in Pleasanton and North Canyons Parkway with Dublin Blvd. would provide some relief to freeway traffic. People driving to and from the Tri-Valley cities would not have to use the freeway.

Leider has served on the Congestion Management Authority (CMA). She says there are some good plans to further improve freeway traffic flow. They include HOV lanes, auxiliary lanes and a truck climbing lane over the Altamont.

Highway 84 improvements are already underway with

widening of the Pigeon Pass area. "There are plans to eventually widen 84 all the way to I-680," noted Leider.

She mentioned the regional rail plan as a way to help reduce traffic. "The proposed Stanley/Isabel intermodal station would allow access to all forms of transportation at one location, including rapid bus transit. The speed of the ACE train would be increased, making it more attractive for commuters. Studies show that 34 percent of the traffic coming over the Altamont heads south."

Asked why there are so few candidates this year, Leider said that she believes people are happy with the way the city is headed. Those who may not like the direction, feel that it would be difficult to win.

The city, park district, and school district are separate agencies. What can the city do to help the park and school district Leider was asked? She declared, "Money is the problem." She noted that the city already works with the park district to plan park projects. If the city and part district were to combine maintenance efforts that would help. Now, each agency has its own equipment and crews, Leider pointed out.

Leider felt that the school district is more independent. Perhaps all three agencies could work together to raise funds for various projects as they did with Measure L. It might be appropriate to include school district and park district fund needs on a bond measure, if the city decides to move ahead with one to fund the maintenance of its infrastructure.

The airport is an ongoing issue with regard to noise. Leider felt that there was a misunderstanding about the recent approval for new hangars. "It's not an expansion," she declared. The aircraft now using tie-downs would move to hangars and the tie-downs would be removed. New planes would not be added. As to jets, Leider said the newer ones are quieter. There is an effort to put laws in place to phase out the noisier jets she pointed out.

Livermore is considering becoming a community of character. Asked if that were appropriate, Leider stated, "Anything that encourages citizens to respect one another and work together can only be good for the community."

Time allotted for people to address the council has been reduced. Leider said she believes that reducing the time for each speaker actually allows for more people to speak. It also helps the council move forward with conducting its business. "It isn't a good idea to extend meetings to 12:30 and 1 a.m. That also limits public input, because the public has gone home," pointed out Leider.

There appears to be a growing gang presence in Livermore. Leider says that she believes the police have developed programs to work with kids and also to educate the public as to what to look for in determining if their is gang activity in an area. She believes the school district is also involved, which is appropriate.

When it comes to the city as a whole, Leider says it is moving in the right direction. Council decisions are fulfilling the general plan and downtown specific plan when it comes to development. "I get a lot of comments from people who say they love living in downtown and being able to walk places."

As to her own goals, Leider said she would like to see agriculture develop in North Livermore.

It is also important that redevelopment continue in the downtown. "I like the idea of younger people moving here. I think the amenities and housing the city is providing is conducive to bringing people of all ages to the city. That makes for a healthy city."

## JEFF WILLIAMS

Jeff Williams applied for the council seat vacated by Tom Reitter. He did not receive the appointment and is now running for council. His campaign manager is Tom Reitter.

Williams has lived in Livermore since 1971. He recently retired from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, where he headed the mechanical engineering department. Williams currently serves on the Design Review Committee.

During the interview, he at

various times said that he sees Livermore as an integrated community, offering something for everyone. "I see Livermore as having an opportunity to be a small city surrounded by farmland. The reality is that it is terrible trying to go anywhere. I want to provide a complete living experience in Livermore with quality shopping, good education, and entertainment."

There should be money for the arts in the city's budget. "The council has an influence on the quality of life in the city. That doesn't just mean that the sewers work and stoplights are in place." While there should be some city funding, he sees private donations as a large piece of the funding puzzle for the arts. Williams noted that a lot of folks in Livermore participate in the arts. "I'd like to see those same people participate as donors." He used as an example the Bankhead family, which donated money to the new 500-seat theater.

He didn't know the details of the proposed art fee on development. However, he says generally towns that have very nice downtowns that include art have some sort of special funding mechanism.

Williams says he absolutely supports the regional theater. "The performing arts theaters and movie theaters provide entertainment opportunities so that people don't have to get in their cars and go someplace."

Asked about funding the regional theater, Williams felt that the group proposing it has presented a very credible plan. He felt it was superior to the Lesher model, where the city provided the funding to operate the theaters.

Affordable housing is an issue. Williams said the goals set by ABAG would be difficult to meet. Land cost a lot. When a developer pays \$300 to \$400 a square foot to build a home, the city can't turn around and tell that developer he has to spend only \$200 square foot.

"The city needs to look at innovative housing strategies. The five work-live units being built right now offer an opportunity to have a small business and a place to live. It could work as a model for other projects," said Williams. He said there are no easy answers. Inclusionary housing can provide some affordability. "Is there a way to provide real cheap housing. No," stated Williams.

When it comes to North Livermore, the council is obligated to continue to defend the urban growth boundary, declared Williams. Residents made it clear in 2005 when they defeated the Pardee plan that they don't want development there. Williams said that the city should put together specific plans for North Livermore and East Livermore that include viable strategies to make the land sufficiently valuable to stop the continuing threat of development.

A crucial piece is water. It is unlikely there could be agriculture of sufficient value without water. Williams said it is critical to create a regional water plan that encompasses the next 30 to 40 years. There is a need to look at the impacts of global warming, population influx and the changing centers of population. All of those factors put pressure on water.

An area that should be preserved is Doolan Canyon to establish a greenbelt between Livermore and Dublin. Williams said possibilities to acquire land in the canyon include the use transfer of development credits. He said Livermore should continue to put whatever pressure possible on Dublin to commit to a buffer zone.

The developed areas of North Livermore have other issues. Williams noted that they now have a voice on the council with Doug Horner. Williams said he used to live in Springtown. "I understand the feeling of being on the other side without infrastructure. A dialog with citizens out there is what is needed. The demographics of the area are shifting with more young families moving in."

Williams said the city council should not automatically assume that future investments in amenities should be south of the freeway.

Maintenance is an issue. It's one the entire nation has to address, pointed out Williams. "It's too easy to wait until next year to make repairs. Eventually there is a need to do crisis maintenance,

which costs more in the long run. A bond issue may be needed to fund the backlog of maintenance. In some places, a user fee may be appropriate."

Williams suggested that the city work with the Lab. He said the Lab had created a model that analyzes maintenance backlog and determines how money available could best be spent. It would help the city to prioritize its efforts, Williams explained.

Traffic is not likely to see a huge improvement said Williams. However, he feels there are projects proposed that will make it better. These include HOV lanes on I-580 and connecting roads between Livermore, Dublin and Pleasanton. In his opinion, BART to Greenview may not be the best use of money. Commute patterns have changed, more funds for ACE would have a greater impact on reducing freeway traffic, Williams noted.

Williams believes the region has done a good job in working together to advocate for transportation funds. "The region should be very aggressive. The state and federal governments should hear one voice loud and often."

Encouraging more people to run for office should begin with encouraging them to serve on various commissions and committees. "Candidates can come from that feeder stream," he stated.

When it comes to the parks and school districts and city working together, Williams believes there has to be an additional effort made to hold inter-agency discussions to deal with both short term problems and long term planning. There may be an opportunity, particularly in the case of the park district, for the two agencies to make plans that are compatible and supportive of each other. "Ideally LARPD should be a city department," Williams said.

In discussing the airport, Williams noted there are clearly a lot of passionate folks. He felt that laws forcing jets to reduce noise levels would be a way to deal with one of the concerns. He also said that there is a potential to identify the worst noise offenders and put pressure on them to change what they are doing. "I'm sympathetic to folks whose lives are disrupted by the noise."

Williams believes it is important to have multiple small airports in an area. In the event of a disaster, when other routes of travel are damaged, the existence of small airports is critical to recovery.

Becoming a community of character is an interesting idea. Williams would like to know what would be achieved. He would also like to see how effective such programs have been in other areas. Williams stated, "The character of a community comes from leaders and how they behave. It is important to lead by example. You can't force human behavior through slogans and programs." He added that he believes that the city manager and mayor have set the tone on how they want city employees to behave. He is impressed with how friendly and helpful employees are.

He has no problem with reducing the amount of time each speaker has to address the council. He said with a growing population there are more people who may want to address the council. "You can't have meetings of 6 to 8 hours. There may be some way to educate people as to how to get their message across in a clear and concise manner," Williams added.

Public education is also a tool in combating gangs. The advantage of education is that neighbors recognize such things as gang symbols and are able to alert the police. Establishing a neighborhood watch is an effective tool. "Citizens have to be part of the control. Without the help of citizens, police will never cure the gang problem," said Williams.

One of his goals would be to make sure that Livermore maintains its identity. Williams would not like to see the cities all run together as they do in other areas. "Livermore should head toward becoming a self-contained city. There are windfarms for electricity, landfill, theaters, the airport, etc. Livermore has a lot of assets other cities don't have."

"My vision for Livermore would be to provide a quality of life experience so that people can stay in Livermore as much as possible," said Williams, adding, "That keeps the money here too."

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# Do You Remember?

By Anne Homan



## Life and Death of a Hotel

Settlers arrived in Livermore from many places, most familiar but some exotic. Dalmatia was a country on the northern section of the Adriatic Sea across from Italy, north of Greece. A narrow land, it stretched along the sea and included many islands. In 1815 at the Congress of Vienna, Dalmatia was given to the Austrian Empire. After World War I it became a part of Yugoslavia, and today it is part of Croatia. One of the area's largest cities is Ragusa, also called Dubrovnik, situated at the southern tip. It is easy to understand why immigrants from the area listed various countries—Dalmatia, Austria, Yugoslavia—as their place of birth in our census records.

Peter Catanich and his sister Catarina came to the United States from Dalmatia in 1870, and he built the two-story frame Morning Star Hotel at the southwest corner of First and L Streets in Livermore four years later. Frank Grassi emigrated from the same country about 1874, married Catarina and took over management of the hotel. They were probably all from Ragusa. The 1880 U.S. census of Livermore listed Frank Grassi as a hotel-keeper, age 31, with his wife, Catarina, age 41, four boarders and a cook. A large bell hung at the hotel entrance, and at noon Frank would ring it as a signal that lunch was ready. He retired in 1881 and did not run the hotel for ten years.

On December 3, 1881 the *Oakland Daily Evening Tribune* ran an article about a stranger who had been ill at the Morning Star Hotel in Livermore. "The proprietor, fearing that his lodger was afflicted with smallpox, turned him loose on the street." The night watchman found the man wandering around town and took him to the old jail, where he gave him a blanket and settled him in for the night. In the morning, when some concerned citizens appeared to "relieve his distress," the stranger had disappeared. "If it was a case of smallpox, no doubt he will be heard from soon."

In 1896 when Grassi was again the proprietor, he put in cement sidewalks on the hotel's street frontage and made many "costly improvements," changing the hotel's name to the Commercial Hotel, perhaps to emphasize the advantages for traveling salesmen of staying near the railroad depot. The hotel boasted 20 furnished single and double sleeping apartments, a bathroom supplied with hot and cold water, and a "commodious and well-equipped kitchen." The large dining room included a piano and was "fitted for the entertainment of private parties." There was also a large sample room for the convenience of salesmen. The hotel carriage met passenger trains arriving at the depot and transported patrons and their luggage to the hotel. Salesmen spread out samples of their wares on tables in the sample room, where local merchants could examine the merchandise.

In 1907 the *Herald* touted proprietor Frank Grassi as an excellent chef as well as a genial host. He had a "well equipped and liberally patronized bar with the best wines, beers, liquors and cigars on the market."

A year later, Patrick O'Donnell bought the hotel; he changed its name to Valley Hotel and added a two-story wing of reinforced concrete. The *Herald* gave a description of the new addition's interior: "The first floor is occupied by a kitchen, sample room, writing room and ladies' parlor on one side and a dining-room which occupies one half the floor space, 25 x 53 feet, on the other. ... The second floor is devoted entirely to sleeping rooms. They are well lighted and have all the conveniences including running water and electric lights."

Eugene and Emma Modry bought the hotel from O'Donnell in 1915. When cafes became the more popular eating choices, the Modrys converted the hotel dining room into private rooms. After the passage of prohibition, they changed the old bar into the hotel's main lobby. When Eugene Modry died in 1928, Mrs. Modry assumed full responsibility for the hotel. "For a long time I did just about all the cleaning, sweeping and all the other work of caring for a hotel. My friends all told me they wouldn't have been able to do so much work without getting old. But I gained weight and felt fine on the strenuous schedule." She said that during World War II many Navy wives stayed with her; they liked to call the building the "Fern Hotel" because of the large number of ferns in the lobby windows. Emma Modry retired and sold the building in 1950. "People are coming and going here all the time. That's hotel life, and after 35 years I've grown accustomed to it and like it; I will miss all the people a lot."

The original wooden structure was demolished in October 1962. However, the stained concrete two-story addition remained on First Street and was still known as the Valley Hotel. The concrete structure was torn down recently along with the little Travel Bug, and a modern commercial building is now going up on the site of the original hotel. The ancient Greek philosopher, Heraclitus, reminded us that nothing endures but change.

(Readers can reach me at am50homan@yahoo.com.)

## 'God of Luck' Author at Library

Author of "God of Luck," Ruthanne Lum McCunn, will speak at the Pleasanton Public Library Thursday, September 27 at 7 p.m.

McCunn, a Eurasian of Chinese and Scottish descent, was hailed by the Dallas Times in 1985 as "an American-Chinese author of remarkable talent." Her work, which has won many awards, has been translated into eleven languages, published in twenty-two countries, and adapted for the stage and film.

Towne Center Books will sell God of Luck at the event. For sale call 846-8826.

The program is free and open to all. No registration required. For more information, call Penny Johnson, 931-3405.

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# BULLETIN BOARD

Organizations wishing to run notices in Bulletin Board, send information to PO Box 1198, Livermore, CA 94551, in care of Bulletin Board. Include name of organization, meeting date, time, place and theme or subject. Phone number and contact person should also be included.

**Retired Public Employees' Association, Tri-Valley Chapter 075**, meetings 10:45 a.m. Thurs., Oct. 4 at Emil Villa's Hickory Pit, 3064 Pacific Ave., Livermore. Speaker is Ada Schoch. Topic: ombudsman program - what volunteers do and how important ombudsmen are to the community. RSVP by Oct. 1. For information and reservation, contact Bob at 846-6563 or June at 461-0315.

**Livermore Library Board**, meets 7 p.m. Thurs., Sept. 27 at the Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. An agenda will be posted at the library 72 hours prior to the meeting.

**Y-Guides and Y-Princesses welcome picnic**, presented by Tri-Valley YMCA Sun., Sept. 23, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Bray Commons Park, 3300 Finnian Way, Dublin. Open to present members and their families and anyone interested in these programs. Open to boys and girls ages 5 to 11 and their dads. A second informational meeting will be 7 p.m. Thurs., Oct. 4 at the YMCA offices, 4725 First St., Suite 210, Pleasanton, or contact Marilyn Casper at 475-6108 or mcaspter@ymcaeastbay.org.

**Livermore Valley Business and Professional Women**, sponsoring a Fall Fashion Preview at Nordstrom in Pleasanton on Thurs., Sept. 27. The program follows dinner in the Cafe at 6:15 p.m. This is a fund-raiser for a woman who is re-entering school. The dinner and program are \$27. Reservations may be made with Mona at 829-3505 by Sept. 24. The public is invited.

**Picnic 4 Pets**, Valley Humane Society 20th Anniversary features an afternoon of BBQ, refreshments, carnival games, and drawings on Sunday, September 23, from noon to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. The Valley Humane Society is located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. For tickets, call Valley Humane Society at 925-426-8656.

**Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club**, Wed., Sept. 26, 23 miles Dublin to Danville for lunch, meet 10 a.m. at the Shannon Center, Jennifer Burton.

**Walk to the Water**, Walk-A-Thon Fund-raiser, Family Event to benefit underprivileged women and children in developing countries. Sun., Oct. 7, 11:30 am to 4:00 pm at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park, Pleasanton. Suggested Donations \$20 per person/\$30 per couple/\$40 per family - includes lunch. Sponsored by Sisters In Service (www.sistersinservice.org), Tri-Valley and East Bay Chapters. Call Gloria at 925-998-3785.

**Guerrilla Wars: Cuba, Vietnam, and Afghanistan**, will be shown Sat., Sept. 22 at 7 p.m. at the IBEW Hall; 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. This film is from the Peabody and Emmy award winning series, "People's Century." This film navigates the viewer through the terrain of guerrilla warfare with insightful interviews and curiously fresh footage of these events. Meet & greet begins at 6:30 p.m. and a short discussion follows the film. This is a nonpartisan, public event with an optional \$3.00 donation, including refreshments. For more information, call 925-462-3459.

**Livermore Scottish Country Dancers** invite beginners to start attending classes anytime this September and October. Learn to dance lively jigs, driving reels, and elegant strathspeys to the traditional and contemporary folk music of Scotland. Cost is \$5 or less per session, first time free. Adult beginners class meets every Monday, 7:00 to 8:30 PM, at Oddfellows Hall, 2160 First Street (second floor), Livermore. Children's class (ages 6 to 18) meets Sundays from 6:00 to 7:30 PM at the Valley School of Dance Theater, 2247 Suite B Second Street, Livermore. Family Class for all ages meets Fridays 7:30-9:00pm, also at the Valley School of Dance Theater. Please contact Sheena MacQueen (447-1833) or Michael Gregg (413-3633).

**Cultural Care Au Pair** is hosting an international potluck featuring dishes from at least 10 countries. Sept. 23, 4 to 6 p.m. at Val Vista Park, Pleasanton. All au pairs in the Tri-Valley are invited to attend regardless of agency. RSVP heidbrewer@sbcglobal.net.

**The Livermore-Amador Valley League of Women Voters** begins its fall schedule with a hot topic at a luncheon meeting on Friday, September 28 at the Girasole Grill, 3180 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. The speaker is Dave Macdonald, Alameda County Registrar of Voters. Macdonald is the person who will manage voting and how to count and verify the ballots given the last minute restrictions announced by the Secretary of State. The social time begins at 11:30 a.m.; lunch at noon and the speaker is at 12:30 p.m. The League, joined by the area branch of the American Association of University Women invites group members and anyone who is interested in how the county plans to deal with the complex and crowded election process, to hear this important speaker. Please make reservations as soon as possible. League members can use a form in the August newsletter or call Barbara Hemphill at 846-9739 for information and menu choices.

**Flea Market**, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Sat., Sept. 29, set-up 6 a.m., close 4 p.m. parking lot, 527 No. Livermore Ave. \$15 for a 15x15 space, \$5 table rental. Sign up for space at the Eagles Social Room or call 449-6281 or 449-5807.

**American Sewing Guild Walnut Creek Chapter**, meeting September 22, 9 am, Walnut Creek United Methodist Church, Social Hall, 1543 Sunnyvale Avenue, Walnut Creek for an American Sewing Guild Community Service Sewing/Mentoring Day. Participants will be making fun pillow cases with approximately 10-20 youths from the church and girl scouts, ages 10-15. The completed pillow cases will be donated to

various foster agencies. For more information call Cynthia Wheeler at 925-754-1230 or Rachel Myers at 925-798-4026 (rmyers@ix.netcom.com).

**Cowboy Express**, Saturday, September 29, 6 to 8 p.m. starting at the Niles Canyon Railway Station in Sunol. Train departs at 6:30 p.m. and returns at 8 p.m., a roundtrip from Sunol through Niles. Appetizers and a dessert will be provided in individual boxes for each rider. Beverages, including wine, will be available for \$5. There will also be entertainment with musicians and singers during the 1 1/2 hour ride. Tickets are \$25, including food and entertainment. Raffle tickets will be for sale for \$5. Some of the prizes are a Gold Country get-away in Jamestown, a Twain Harte cabin retreat get-away, a day tour with lunch in Old Sacramento and more. One winner will receive a trip to San Antonio, Texas. Event and raffle tickets can be purchased by calling 925-461-6401. Fundraising event is sponsored by Assistance League of Amador Valley to raise money to fund philanthropic activities and projects.

**Volunteers needed to become Bookleggers** and present book programs to the school children of Pleasanton. Anyone interested in bringing together books, children and libraries through community service, is invited to join the Pleasanton Bookleggers. Training classes are set to begin Sept. 25 at 9:30 am at the Pleasanton Library. The Booklegger Program is a literacy program supported by the City of Pleasanton and the Pleasanton Unified School District. For more information about the Booklegger Program please call Chris Spitzel, Booklegger Coordinator, at 925/931-3400 x26.

**Livermore Community Blood Drive**, Sat., Sept. 29, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Cedar Grove Community Church, 2021 College Ave., Livermore in the Lighthouse Room. For information and to sign up call, 447-2351. An ID is required in order to give blood.

**Giant Semi-Annual Sale, Kid's Stuff!** Twin Valley Mothers of Twins Club is hosting our Children's Clothing and Equipment consignment sale on Saturday September 29, 9 a.m.-2:15 p.m. at the "Barn" in Livermore, 3131 Pacific Avenue. \$1.00 per person Entrance Fee. For info e-mail Rachel: rachelburgess78@gmail.com or Great Bargains on Clothes, Strollers, Toys, Videos, Pak n Plays, Layettes, Books, High Chairs, Swings, Gates, Cribs, outdoor toys and more. www.tvmtc.com.

**RELIGION**  
**Unitarian Universalist**, 1893 N. Vasco Rd., Livermore. 10:30 a.m. Sunday service. Sept. 23 topic will be "The Fragile Art of Hospitality," led by Rev. Carolyn Colbert, interim minister. Information 447-8747.

**Yom Kippur**, Tri-Valley Cultural Jews holds Secular Humanistic Jewish observance of Yom Kippur. Program of music, poetry and readings. No charge, but opportunities for contributions to international, national and local charities. Sept. 22 at 2 p.m. TVCJ is welcoming to singles and to non-traditional and intermarried families. Tri-Valley Cultural Jews, 1817 Sinclair Drive, Pleasanton, (925) 485-1049, CulturalJews@aol.com or Tri-ValleyCulturalJews.org.

**Tri-Valley Cultural Jews** sukkah-raising brunch potluck, a child-friendly activity. Sun., Sept. 23, 10:30 a.m. at a private home. The sukkah is the traditional harvest hut decorated with branches and fruit. TVCJ members and friends will erect and decorate a sukkah and share brunch. Bring a dish for 8 to share, canned or packaged food for the Alameda County Food Bank, and, if you can, a branch or fruit to decorate the sukkah. TVCJ is welcoming to singles and to non-traditional and intermarried families. 485-1049, CulturalJews@aol.com or Tri-ValleyCulturalJews.org.

**United Christian Church**, 1886 College Ave., Livermore, worships on Sunday at 10:30 am. Children are welcome. International Day of Peace Vigil, Sept. 21 from 12pm-6pm. We are an Open and Affirming church, welcoming all. For information call 925-449-6820.

**Hadassah Shalom Chapter** invites women from all over the Tri-Valley to their Kick-off Meeting on Tues., Sept. 25th, 7-9pm. Refreshments, dessert, and Raffle Prizes. Meeting will be held at Beth Chaim Congregation, 1800 Holbrook Drive, Danville. For more information, call (925) 968-9240 or email cherylsb63@yahoo.com.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Folks enjoy Tuesday Tunes at the Livermore Valley Plaza. Tunes will be held through October 16. Livermore Downtown Inc. is hosting the free live music at the Flagpole Plaza and the Livermore Valley Plaza from 5 to 8 pm. For more information, call 373-1795 or go to www.livermoredowntown.com.

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Local wine tasting from LVC, The Crush and Battaion Cellars  
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Thirsty Thursday is sponsored by: Monavilive.com, Coflin Chiropractic and Madeline Walker Real Estate

The Livermore Farmers Market is brought to you by:  
Livermore Downtown Inc., Pacific Coast Farmers Market, The City of Livermore, L.A.R.P.D., The Independent Newspaper, The Lanet Team, The Livermore Valley Tennis Club, Arroyo Crossing: The Collection by O'Brien Homes, and Marcel Orthodontics

For more info on this & other events, please contact Livermore Downtown Inc. 925-373-1795  
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Rehearsing for the opening of "Arsenic and Old Lace" are (from left) Barbara McKee (Aunt Martha), Jeff Tan (Mortimer Brewster), and Joan Evans (Aunt Abby).

Photo - Eric Wood

## 'Arsenic and Old Lace' Launches Playhouse Season

"Arsenic and Old Lace," the first show of the Pleasanton Playhouse's 24th season and 11th year of Studio Theatre, runs September 21 through October 14 at the Studio Theater in Pleasanton.

Written in 1939 by Joseph Kesselring, this farcical black comedy premiered on Broadway in 1941 and was a smash hit. "Arsenic and Old Lace" has been in almost continuous production somewhere in the world since then.

The play revolves around Mortimer Brewster (Jeff Tan), a theatre-hating drama critic who must deal with his crazy family and local police as he debates whether to marry the woman he loves. His aunts, Martha (Barbara McKee) and Abby Brewster (Joan Evans) are known throughout Brooklyn for their charitable works. Their nephew, Teddy (Chris Ciabattini), who thinks he is Teddy Roosevelt, is their unwitting accomplice. The two spinster aunts have taken to murdering lonely old men and poisoning them with homemade el-

derberry wine laced with arsenic, strychnine and "just a pinch" of cyanide.

The plot includes a host of larger than life characters including Mortimer and Teddy's murderous brother, Jonathan (Jay Markwart), who following a bit of plastic surgery to conceal his identity, bears a strong resemblance to Boris Karloff; his alcoholic accomplice Dr. Einstein (Jack Larson); Elaine Harper (Kara Penrose), Mortimer's fiancée, her mother, The Rev. Dr. Harper (Marsha Howard), who is a neighboring minister; and a group of police (Nikki Grieci, Loren Struss, William Woodrow and Richard Rocha) who are struggling to clear up the mystery of the missing men and Mr. Chan (R. Gue), the almost victim.

This show is directed by John Baiocchi, produced by JoAnn Loitz, with lighting design by Robert Ted Anderson, and sets designed by Tom Loitz.

Performances are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays September 21-October 14 at the Studio Theater, 1048 Serpentine Lane, Suite 309, Pleasanton.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors age 60 and older and \$18 for juniors 18 and younger. They can be purchased online at [www.pleasantonplayhouse.com](http://www.pleasantonplayhouse.com), by telephone at 925-462-2121 or 925-484-4486, or by visiting our ticket office at the Pleasanton Playhouse box office at 1048 Serpentine Lane #307. Office hours are 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

## A Celebration of the Piano

By Nancy O'Connell

On September 8th there was not only a celebration of the piano, but a musical day long feast. In the evening a large audience enjoyed Michael Fennelly's triumphant return to Livermore. Earlier in the day at Las Positas College, Roy Bogas presented a master class for young aspiring pianists. The young artists would play for Roy, and then he would make suggestions for each one of them after they completed their composition.

I was only able to attend in the afternoon and heard his teaching technique with Debra Choi, who performed Chopin's "Ballade in G Minor, No. 1." She played brilliantly and with feeling. Then Roy began working with her. He chose certain excerpts, sometimes talking as he played, first demonstrating with the lyrical passage when the second theme enters. His interpretation was to make the passage mysterious, playing it more slowly, creating a singing tone with the melody. He said, "There's no need to play so fast. Interpret it as though Chopin wasn't quite sure of where he was going next. Hold back as the theme opens out. It's like a blossom which opens out slowly." He then went on to say and demonstrate, "The bass notes at the beginning of the second theme are important, they're like a 'little heart beat.'"

He continued by saying, "Crescendo passages are more effective if begun quietly. The first note is very important. Let it sing out. Whoever edited this and put in *Pesante* was not Chopin. He would not have suggested that one play it heavily." A good message here. One of my own piano teachers, Adolph Baller, would say, "Try and find the original musical text, the *Urtext*. An editor can only earn money if he changes the suggestions or the fingerings which the composer put in himself." Most professional musicians try and discover the composer's original intent.

Roy Bogas is a master of the piano, and should need no introduction to audiences in this area. He has performed widely as a chamber musician, toured as an accompanist to many artists, including Yehudi Menuhin, Joseph Szigeti, and Jaime Laredo, and now is the pianist for the San

Francisco Ballet. I first heard him while playing 'cello when he performed as a piano soloist with the Stanford Orchestra in a Mozart Concerto when he was still a teenager. I was tremendously impressed with his mature musicianship then, just as I am today. What I didn't know until September 8th was that his brother, Ed Bogas, wrote some of the "Peanuts" TV shows, and that Roy played Beethoven's "Appassionata Sonata" for Schroeder!

Roy played Chopin's "Etude in E Major" with its famous melody. He also spoke before he began his interpretation, explaining that he plays the right hand with the melody line slightly louder than the accompaniment in the left, so that the melody is heard. When the faster passages followed, he made it all look effortless.

He demonstrated his technique with broken chords in the last movement of Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata." He suggested that pianists merely rotate their hands rather than playing each note separately in a broken chord, thus conserving their strength for more difficult passages. After a fiery introduction the melody sang out. Later the left hand had the melody and he subdued the right hand.

His next work was Bach's "Toccatina" and told everyone to listen to two different themes which were filled with humor. He played the fanfare from the first movement, which was like an improvisation, then followed it with a fugue. Again he explained to the students present to think of this programmatically. Think

## ART & ENTERTAINMENT

**Livermore Valley Charter School Art Show.** Sampling of student art in a variety of mediums and styles displayed at the Livermore Library Gallery, 1188 So. Livermore Ave., Sept. 1 to 30.

**Eugene O'Neill Festival in Danville.** Outdoor gourmet dinner, musical and dramatic performances at Tao House, a National Historic Site; introduction into the life and works of O'Neill; discussions about the playwright's young and restless years by O'Neill scholars and authorities; free screening of "The Iceman Cometh." Presented by the Eugene O'Neill Foundation and the National Park Service. Sept. 21, 22, 23. Details [www.eugeneoneill.org](http://www.eugeneoneill.org).

**Prometheus Symphony Orchestra.** Eric Hansen, conductor. Concert Oct. 7, 3 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Montecita and Grand Ave., Oakland. Program: Beatrice and Benedict Overture by Berlioz; Lieutenant Kije Suite by Prokofiev, Symphony #41 by Nielsen. Admission is free. Donation requested.

**6th Annual ArtWalk.** Sat., Oct. 13 in downtown Livermore. Over 150 artists and their works from photography to paintings to sculpture will be displayed from 11-5pm. There will be wine tasting from Livermore wineries, folk musicians and much more. Tour maps are provided of the Downtown Livermore exhibit area, running from L Street to McLeod, First to Third Streets. Visit [www.tvag.org](http://www.tvag.org) for more information, and the photo gallery to help plan a walking tour. The event is free.

**The Essential Landscape: A Tribute to Nature's Bounty and Beauty.** art exhibit at Deer Ridge Vineyard in Livermore. Landscapes by two California oil painters, Stephan Sanfilippo and Tom Toneyhill. The exhibit runs August 30 through October 28. The public is invited to meet both artists at a special wine and cheese reception to be held Sat., Sept. 29 from 4 to 6 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. All artwork is available for purchase. Deer Ridge Vineyards is located at 1828 Wetmore Road, Livermore. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.

**Competition for Young Musicians.** Livermore-Amador Symphony Association 35th annual competition application deadline is Sun., Oct. 7. The competition is open to instrumentalists and vocalists who reside or attend school in Livermore, Sunol, Pleasanton, Dublin, or San Ramon. Students are eligible through grade 12. If not enrolled in high school, the maximum age is 17. All instruments will be considered. The purpose is to

select two young musicians who will perform as soloists with the symphony on Feb. 9, 2008. Each winner/soloist will be awarded \$250. Completed application forms must be accompanied by a cassette tape, CD or DVD for preliminary screening and a \$5 fee. Application forms and additional information may be obtained at [www.livamsymph.org](http://www.livamsymph.org) or calling 447-1947.

**Jazz at the Ridge.** Poppy Ridge Golf Course, 4280 Greenville Rd., Livermore. Every Thursday 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Smooth jazz by Two Guys or Opie Bellas and Jeff Massanar. Information 456-8215 or [info@poppyridgegolf.com](mailto:info@poppyridgegolf.com).

**Diablo Light Opera Company.** "Peter Pan," with special flying effects. 8 p.m. on Sept. 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29; 2 p.m. Sept. 22, 23, 29; 11 a.m. Sept. 20, 27. Tickets \$17-38. Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets: 943-7469; [www.lshercenr.org](http://www.lshercenr.org); [www.dloc.org](http://www.dloc.org).

**Grgich Hills Winemaker Dinner** with founder Miljenko "Mike" Grgich as guest and speaker on Wed., September 26, 2007 Dinner at 7:00 pm \$99 per person plus gratuity and tax Chef Neil pairs his Croatian influenced 5 course dinner with Mike's wines. Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St., Pleasanton. 925-846-8106 or [www.PleasantonHotel.com](http://www.PleasantonHotel.com).

**Bocce Ball & Italian Dinner Night:** Wednesdays: Sept. 19 The Foods of Molise; Dinner served with three glasses of complimentary vineyard selection wine, event takes place on outdoor courts with patio seating. Cellar Master Wayne Re is Bocce Captain and coordinates instruction and group play. Bring a group or come alone; all skill levels are welcome. \$34.95 person. Two seatings from 5:30-7pm. Garré Winery, 7986 Tesla Road, Livermore. 371-8200. [www.garrewinery.com](http://www.garrewinery.com). Reservations required.

**Vineyard Nights Summer Music and Dinner Series:** Fri., Sept. 21: "Rock and Pop in the Vineyards" With The Brandon Carroll Duo. Event takes place outdoors under the stars. Indoor seating available. Reservations strongly recommended. Seating from 6-8pm; music until 9pm. Garré Winery, 7986 Tesla Road, Livermore. 371-8200. [www.garrewinery.com](http://www.garrewinery.com).

**Cinema at Wente Vineyards.** Gates and Café open at 6:30 pm, the movie begins at twilight. Tickets for the movie only are \$9 adults and \$5 ages 12 and under. Proceeds benefit The California Independent Film Festival. Mon., Sept. 26 (full moon), "Moonstruck." The Cinema at Wente Vineyards is presented in conjunction with the restaurant at Wente Vineyards on Arroyo Road. For reservations call (925) 456-2400 or online at Ticketmaster.com.

**Author and Mountaineer Bob Madgic.** Shattered Air: A True Account, Half Dome. Presentation at Livermore Library on Sept. 26, 7 p.m. 1188 So. Livermore Ave. Information 373-5505.

**Livermore Heritage Guild,** annual dinner, Sat., Sept. 29, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Lincoln Highway Duarte Garage. Portola and L streets, Livermore. Music, awards, fun. \$20 per person. Reservations at 449-9927. Visit [www.livermorehistory.com](http://www.livermorehistory.com).

**Valley Dance Theatre,** evening of wine, hors d'oeuvres, dancing and a silent auction, Sat., Sept. 29 from 5 to 9 p.m. This event is for adults (age 18 and over) only. First Presbyterian Church, 2020 5th St. Livermore. Tickets are \$75 per person; \$600 for

a table of eight. [www.valleydancetheatre.com](http://www.valleydancetheatre.com) or call 925-243-0925 and ask for Rochelle Abrantes or Betsy Hausberg.

**John Christopher Cellars Blacksmith Square events:** Sept. 23 - Roger Kardinal plays live from 2-5 p.m. Purchase a bottle of JCC wine and enjoy live tunes and great wine out on the courtyard. Winery open from 12:5-3:30 p.m. at 25 South Livermore Ave., Suite 103, downtown Livermore.

**Pacific Chamber Symphony** presents Bach's Brandenburg Concertos, Livermore, Thursday, October 11, 2007 8:00 p.m. Lawrence Kohl, Conductor; Livia Sohn, violin; Bankhead Theater. Tickets: \$38, \$32, \$26. For tickets or information, 373-6800 [www.livermoreperformingarts.org](http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org).

**Moonstruck Harvest Night,** hosted by Deer Ridge Vineyards, 1828 Wetmore Road, Livermore, Sept. 29, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. 4-course winemaker dinner. Harvest grapes under the light of a full harvest moon and hand select grapes for this year's Moonstruck Reserve™ wine. Each participant receives a signed bottle of Moonstruck Reserve™ wine from a prior year's harvest, a logo glass to celebrate the evening, and priceless memories. \$85.00 per person, plus tax. Seating is limited to assure a quality experience. Call (866) 561-0838 for reservations.

**Complete Works of Shakespeare (Abridged),** Friday, September 28th, 8pm. Tickets \$25 adults, \$20 senior/staff/students, \$15 under 12. Smith Center at Ohlone College 43600 Mission Blvd. Fremont. (510) 659-6031 [www.smithcenterpress.com](http://www.smithcenterpress.com).

**Poetry book release,** - beautiful fish - Sat., Sept. 22, 5 to 7 p.m. Coffee Beans & Bistro, downtown Pleasanton, corner of Main St. and W. Angela. Featuring poet Sandra Kay. Public is invited to attend.

**Livermore Photographers Recognized,** Jessica Quintal and Anna Vickroy of ultra-spective photography : music : design in downtown Livermore have recently been accepted into the Loan and General Collection of the 116th International Exhibition of Professional Photography. To celebrate their achievement, ultra-spective will be hosting a reception to display works by the two photographers on Friday, September 21 from 4 to 7 p.m. For more information or to view additional photographs, go to [www.ultra-spective.com](http://www.ultra-spective.com) or call 449-9879.



Ashley Hsu

### Young Performer to Present Piano Recital

The community is invited to attend the annual piano recital co-sponsored by Asbury United Methodist Church and the Alameda County East Branch of the Music Teachers' Association of California. It will be held on Saturday evening, September 29, at 7:30 p.m., in Asbury's sanctuary, 4743 East Avenue in Livermore.

This year's performer, Ashley Hsu, 16, was inducted into the prestigious Young Artist Guild of the MTAC in July. The Fremont resident is a student of Hans Boepfle of Santa Clara University. Miss Hsu has received many awards and honors for her fine piano playing, including this year's First Prize in the all-state Piano Solo Competition.

The program will include sonatas by Beethoven, Chopin and Ives.

Children are especially welcome at this event. It will last about an hour. There will be a brief question and answer session after the performance. The artist will be glad to sign programs and meet members of the audience.

The concert is open to the public. There is no charge for admission. Refreshments will be served afterward. For more information, call (925) 443-2514

**Vine Cinema** Playing Sept. 21 - Sept. 27 (925) 447-2545 [WWW.VINECINEMA.COM](http://WWW.VINECINEMA.COM)

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**THE PRINCESS BRIDE - All seats just \$7.00!**

3:10 to YUMA  
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GOOD LUCK CHUCK (R) DLP/THR	12:10	2:25	4:40 7:00 9:35
RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION (R) DLP/THR	12:30	2:45	4:55 7:20 9:45
EASTERN PROMISES (R) DLP		1:15	4:00 6:50 9:30
SYDNEY WHITE (PG-13) DLP		12:50	3:40 6:40 9:15
THE BRAVE ONE (R) DLP		12:40	3:30 6:50 9:40
MR. WOODCOCK (PG-13) DLP		12:05	2:30 4:45 7:15 9:30
DRAGON WARS (PG-13)		12:25	2:40 4:50 7:20 9:25
SUPERBAD (R) DLP		1:20	4:10 6:45 9:35
BALLS OF FURY (PG-13) DLP		12:00	2:15 4:35 7:10 9:20
THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM (PG-13) DLP		1:30	4:30 7:00 9:50
UNDERDOG (PG) DLP			12:20 2:35 5:00
SHOOT EM UP (R) DLP			7:05 9:25
STARDUST (PG-13) DLP			1:40 6:55
RUSH HOUR 3 (PG-13) DLP			4:40 9:40
MR BEAN'S HOLIDAY (G) DLP		12:00	2:10 4:20 6:40 9:10

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October 1-13

The Four Freshmen  
Monday, October 1, 8pm

Gotta Sing, Gotta Dance  
Tuesday, October 2, 7pm  
Valley Concert Chorus  
& Livermore School of Dance

San Jose Brass Plus  
Wednesday, October 3, 8pm  
Del Valle Fine Arts

Pleasanton Playhouse  
4th Annual Player Awards  
Thursday, October 4, 8pm

Bernadette Peters in Concert  
Gala Fundraising Benefit  
Saturday, October 6, 8pm

Bringing Art to Life  
Sunday, October 7, 2pm  
Valley Dancer Theatre

Shaolin Warriors  
Tuesday, October 9, 7:30pm

Doc Watson & David Holt  
Wednesday, October 10, 8pm

The Brandenburg Concertos  
Thursday, October 11, 8pm  
Pacific Chamber Symphony

Premium Blend  
Friday, October 12, 6pm and 8:30pm  
Bay Area Dancer Company

All the World's a Stage:  
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Saturday, October 13, 8pm  
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# HERITAGE FESTIVAL

(continued from page one)

Push Rods club will be showing off some of their classic cars on Saturday.

The P-Town Push Rods, which was started 11 years ago, is a club made up of enthusiastic car lovers who like almost nothing more than tinkering with classic cars, muscle cars, and hot rods. The only thing more important to the club are the charitable works they do. One of their favorite annual events is their Turkey Run in November where hundreds of the birds are donated to local churches to be distributed to the poor. They will have some of their finest vehicles on display on Saturday on Main Street between St. John and Spring Street. Joining them will be cars from the Mustang Club and even a few Modified Hotrod Pick Up Truck owners.

Sunday at the same location, Santa Clara Model A's Club will be on hand. Antique motorbikes, Whizzers, will be zipping around as well. The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department will be bringing out an antique fire truck.

Street corner concerts will include music provided by pianist Brian Kelly, Chapman Stick player Bob Culbertson, Hugo Wainzinger and Al Fabrizio who make up Heartstrings and the Latin sounds of guitarist Tom Duarte.

Pianist Brian Kelly began playing when he was only eight years old. The first piece he com-

posed was for his mother. Since then he has written and produced more than 250 pieces. He counts among his earliest influences side two of the Beatles "Abbey Road" and a recording of Beethoven's First Piano Concerto. This well known Bay Area musician will be just one of the acts providing music at the Pleasanton Heritage Festival this year.

Chapman Stick player, Bob Culbertson, whose shows have taken him to over 15 countries throughout the world and in his travels has placed him on the stage with entertainers such as Tuck and Patti, Steve Morse, Doobie Brothers, will also be on hand to entertain festival-goers with his evocative stylings.

Also on tap will be Hugo Wainzinger and Al Fabrizio who make up Heartstrings. This duo, known far and wide for their ro-

mantic Italian mood music will fill the air with the sounds of the mandolin and guitar.

To round the weekend out, Tom Duarte will be adding his talent to the mix providing a Latin sound with his guitar playing. His latest CD, Diamante,

blends Brazilian grooves and fiery solo Flamenco pieces.

Admission is free. For more information please contact 484-2199 or visit the festival web site at [www.mlproductions.com](http://www.mlproductions.com).

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# AIRPORT

(continued from page one)

a future date.

The Pleasanton Community Concert Band will perform during the day, as will the Diablo Dixie Devil Jazz Band. The Pleasanton Livermore Fire Department and Livermore Police Department officers will be on hand to exhibit their equipment and meet residents.

There will be an opportunity to meet representatives of local flight schools and arrange for a demonstration flight.

Bring a picnic, or have the Livermore High School Boosters prepare lunch.

**Janice Pementel**  
"Thanks Dad"

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\* Need not be present to win.

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*Livermore Twilight Open Home Tour*

**ALAIN PINEL REALTORS**

Thursday, September 27th, 4:00-7:00pm [www.LivermoreTwilightHomeTour.com](http://www.LivermoreTwilightHomeTour.com)

 1634 Sorrento Pl \$1,499,000	 5662 Carnegie Wy \$1,039,000	 5679 Dresslar Cir \$899,000	 975 Wynn Cir \$823,000	 448 Beverly St \$759,950	 1047 Xavier Wy \$659,000	 390 Encino Dr \$649,500	 2773 7th St \$609,000
 1220 Hillcrest Ave \$597,950	 1321 Lillian St \$595,000	 3232 Chateau Wy \$590,000	 5427 Mira Loma Ct \$590,000	 5972 Ocean Hills Wy \$559,950	 1045 El Dorado Dr \$559,950	 835 Geraldine St \$537,950	 3330 Pestana Wy \$530,000
 791 North L St \$525,000	 5932 Idlewild Ave \$499,950	 1332 Marigold Rd \$489,950	 5877 Running Hills Ave \$450,000	 345 Northwood Cmns \$429,000	 314 Garden Cmn \$424,950		

There will be a drawing for a dinner for two at the new **Simply Fondue Restaurant** in Livermore.

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