

# SHORT NOTES

## Volunteers in Action

The Volunteers in Action program with the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District will hold a Leadership-in-Training Experience school-year session to teach teens how to become involved.

"Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Appreciating the Diversity Within Us" is a program to promote King's vision of building broad and diverse coalitions, breaking down barriers and making the community the best it can be.

The program will begin with sharing information about how teenagers can volunteer and what they will gain from it in return. LARPD's volunteer program will be discussed, along with future opportunities, why volunteering is important from both a personal and community standpoint and how each person can make a difference.

In addition to learning how to give back to the Livermore community, those who attend will join in a canned food scavenger hunt and then donate the findings to the St. Vincent de Paul food bank.



Gurbaksh Chahal

## 'G' Will Talk about 'The Dream' at Library Program

Gurbaksh Chahal, known as "G," will present "The Dream" at a January 18 program at the Pleasanton Library.

This young entrepreneur dropped out of school to form his first company, ClickAgents, becoming a multi-millionaire at age 18.

G is featured on the new prime-time network show The Secret Millionaire. He has appeared on The Oprah Winfrey Show, FOX Business Network's Cavuto, among others, and has been profiled in such publications as The New York Times, Entrepreneur magazine, and The San Francisco Chronicle. His memoir, "The Dream" is the story of his road to success.

The program is at 2 p.m. in the meeting room, 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. The program is free and open to all. No registration required.

Towne Center Books will sell The Dream at the event. Call 846-8826 for pre-sale information.

For more information, call Penny Johnson, 925/931-3405.

The training will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 26, at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. This program is geared toward youth in sixth through 12th grade. The fee to participate is \$5 per person. Pre-registration is required. Registration can be completed online at [www.larpd.dst.ca.us](http://www.larpd.dst.ca.us) or by phone at 925-373-5700.

## New Year Birds

New Year Birds is the theme of a Sun., Jan. 11 nature program presented by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff.

Meet Ranger Pat Sotelo at 8 a.m. at the Nature Area entrance to Sycamore Grove Park. Come check out the new 2009 bird models and see what they have to offer. Take a look at the eye-catching colors and sleek lines, and come see if you can spot any sporty new models to add to your bird lists. The group may even get some special things such as bird songs and calls thrown in at no extra charge. Don't forget binoculars and field guides. There will be a few to lend. This bird walk will last about two hours. Cancelled if raining.

There is a \$3 per vehicle parking fee. A \$2 donation is requested to help support the programs. Participants may call 925-960-2400 for more information.

## ZooMobile at Library

The Oakland Zoo's ZooMobile will bring an array of small animals to the Pleasanton Library on Saturday, January 24.

Children from Pre-K through 1st grade learn about appropriate behavior around animals, are introduced to simple facts about animal classes and physical structures, and learn to observe similarities and differences in the appearance and behavior of various animals. An underlying theme is that of appreciating and respecting animals and nature.

No registration is required for this 30 minute program, which will be offered at 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. Free tickets will be distributed at the Children's Desk 30 minutes prior to each show. Attendance will be limited to 100 per session. Doors will be closed to late arrivals once the program begins. For more information about library programs and events check the library's website at [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services) or call the Children's Desk at (925) 931-3400 ext. 8.

## Court Volunteers

Adult volunteers needed for the Tri-Valley Youth Court (TVYC), a youth driven justice program for first time offenders. The court meets the first Tuesday evening of each month at the Gale/Schenone courthouse in Pleasanton from 5:30 - 7:45 pm. For more information, visit our website at [www.trivalleyyouthcourt.com](http://www.trivalleyyouthcourt.com) or call Tonya at (925) 337-7175.

Teen Volunteers Needed for new Tri-Valley Youth Court (TVYC) to serve as Advocates (youth attorneys) and jurors. Advocates prepare and present the case for the Defendant. Jurors are needed one evening per month - the first Tuesday from 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm at the Gale/Schenone courthouse in Pleasanton. TVYC is a youth driven adjunct to the traditional juvenile justice system for first time teen offenders. For more information, visit our website at [www.trivalleyyouthcourt.com](http://www.trivalleyyouthcourt.com) or call Tonya at (925) 337-7175.

## Shot Clinic

Axis Community Health has scheduled free immunization clinics for children on January 10, February 7, and March 7, 2009 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. The clinics will take place at Axis' Pleasanton Clinic only, 4361 Railroad

Avenue, between Main and First Streets in downtown Pleasanton.

Saturday Immunization clinics are open to all Tri-Valley families who are low income or uninsured, including those enrolled in Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Managed Care. Parents should bring child's immunization records and information about family income and medical insurance. There is a fee for some immunizations.

Immunizations by appointment are also available at (925) 462-1755.

## Child Care Programs

Child Care Links provides free workshops to employers in Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin.

Workshop facilitators will provide valuable information on important issues to parents at their work site. Workshops are available on a variety of topics and can be tailored to the needs of employees. The length of each workshop can range from 45 minutes to 2 hours. Workshops can be during the lunch hour, or at another time arranged by the employer. Child Care Links can also provide a series of workshops.

Training Topics include: Choosing Child Care, Parenting Skills, Child Development, and Work/Family Balance.

A Child Care Links facilitator will present the curriculum, related handouts, resource materials and answer questions. Child Care Links' staff is available during business hours to answer further questions, provide free child care referrals and community resources.

Employers or employees are encouraged to call for further information on this free service. For more information contact Shauna Brown at (925) 249-3925. There is no charge for this service.

## Arithmetickles

"Math + Fun = Arithmetickles" - that's the educational idea behind a unique in-school assembly program that's coming to Northern California's K-8 schools in January.

Arithmetickles is a one-of-a-kind, interactive touring show that for 12 years has taken the fear out of numbers at elementary and middle schools in 26 states nationwide.

Livermore's Marylin Avenue Elementary (800 Marylin Avenue; 925-606-4724) will host daytime assemblies of this acclaimed math show on Tuesday, January 20 at 9 and 10 a.m.

Arithmetickles takes math "off the page and onto the stage" by blending fast-paced theater games, audience participation, improvisation, mime, puzzles, skits, and stand-up comedy to capture the attention of school children ages six to fourteen.

Produced by ArtsEcho (a national nonprofit arts organization founded in 1987), Arithmetickles demonstrates that numbers, shapes, percentages, fractions, and logic are a vital part of our everyday lives. The performance shows kids how to creatively explore and solve math problems in real life situations.

## LeapFish Search Engine

LeapFish, a multi-dimensional search aggregator, launched its beta search engine, LeapFish.com, that promises to conveniently surprise users with new-found search information as it combines the best of the web in a single search.

Type in a search term and LeapFish instantly delivers a plethora of relevant results from Google, Yahoo, and MSN, along with blogs, news, Q&A, videos, images and shopping results from major online destinations including Ebay and YouTube, all conveniently organized in a single, easy to use interface.

"The growing complexity and variety of the Internet has naturally fragmented data accessibility online. Today's users are driven to utilize more than one online destination to find the data they seek," said Behnam Behrouzi, President and CEO. "LeapFish offers a

one-stop convenient solution for more complex searches by querying the web's most sought-after destinations and rendering the results to users in a surprisingly easy-to-use format."

LeapFish features a clean interface with search widgets that display up-to-the-minute news, images, videos and more, on every search term. Click "see more" under a search widget and view a complete list of relevant results.

Behrouzi points out that LeapFish does not intend to race alongside Google or Yahoo, but instead seeks to leverage what is already working and wanted online. "LeapFish utilizes what already works to capture the breadth and variety of the web and lends more accessibility to what is already valuable to us in the vastness of the Internet," he says.

LeapFish utilizes proprietary hyper-threading technology to communicate with all major online portals simultaneously to deliver the various search results from across the web to users in a single search query. The beta search platform has been under development since early 2008 and is geared for considerable advancements over the coming months.

## 'Invention of Air'

Bestselling author Steven Johnson will be featured in a Thurs., Jan. 15 program at the Pleasanton Library.

In his book, "The Invention of Air," Johnson recounts the story of the Joseph Priestley, a man who embodied the relationship between science, religion and politics for America's Founding Fathers.

The program will begin at 7 p.m. in the library's meeting room, 400 Old Bernal Ave.

Johnson is also the author of the national bestsellers The Ghost Map, Everything Bad Is Good for You, and Mind Wide Open, as well as Emergence and Interface Culture. He was the co-founder of the online magazine FEED and is a contributing editor to Wired.

Towne Center Books will sell "The Invention of Air" at the event. For presale information call 925/846-8826.

This program is free and open to everyone. For more information about the library program call 931-3405.

## Garden Docents

The City of San Ramon is looking for adults interested in becoming garden docents for the school tour programs at Crow Canyon Gardens.

The school tour programs run in the fall and spring seasons, September to November and March to May. The programs consist of age-appropriate, 1-hour tours in the gardens for students, grades K-5. The programs run weekday mornings. Training sessions will be held by appointment.

Crow Canyon Gardens is located at 105 Park Place in San Ramon, behind Mudd's Restaurant, just off of Crow Canyon Road. Crow Canyon Gardens is an organic 7-acre garden site that is dedicated to educating the public about organic gardening practices in a beautiful natural setting. There is a demonstration garden, community garden plots and a natural riparian area. Students will learn about natural science, including organic gardening concepts in a peaceful setting.

Those interested in becoming a garden docent, please contact Jessica Palacios at (925) 973-3213 or (925) 314-0362 or email her at [jpalacios@sanramon.ca.gov](mailto:jpalacios@sanramon.ca.gov).



The Go Green Environmental Club of Christensen Middle School (students in photo) in Livermore did their part this fall to clean up local waterways. With the help of Leslie Koenig from the Alameda County Conservation Partnership's Hands-on-Conservation Program and the City of Livermore, students collected trash along the Arroyo Las Positas on September 20th to support Coastal Clean-up Day. The garbage pulled from the creek and banks filled a dump truck to the top. The Conservation Partnership, City of Livermore, and LARPD organized a second clean-up along Altamont Creek, with students from Altamont Creek Elementary School joining the middle school students. During both activities, students noticed a high amount of pet waste near the water. "I wish people would clean up after their pets and pick up their trash," commented one student. "The water in this creek is part of our drinking supply!" Pet waste is a neighborhood nuisance and a carrier of potential illness into our streams and rivers. To prevent this from occurring in local creeks, take a plastic bag or pooper scooper along and pick up your pet's waste. Once you pick up the waste, put it in the trash. For more information on the Conservation Partnerships Hands-on-Conservation Program, please visit [www.acrcd.org](http://www.acrcd.org) and click on youth education.

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## Pleasanton to Provide Help for Consumers

Pleasanton residents can ring in the New Year by learning about their consumer rights at a new Consumer Affairs Clinic offered through the Pleasanton Senior Center, located at 5353 Sunol Boulevard. Hosted by the Department of Consumer Affairs, the clinic will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on the first Tuesday of each month, beginning on Tuesday, February 3.

Residents can call (925) 931-5365 to make an appointment with a Consumer Affairs counselor who will assist in resolving consumer specific issues. The type of disputes typically handled through the program relate to refunds, repair/rework, service, product exchange, electronic and appliance service contracts and warranty issues.

This free Complaint Resolution Program is part of the Consumer and Community Empowerment Division of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

ment of Consumer Affairs. The program is responsible for resolving consumer complaints that pertain to the following industries: automotive repair, home furnishings, electronic and appliance repair, private investigator, private security, burglar alarm, repossession, locksmith, security guard, baton and firearm training, hearing aid dispenser, and cemetery and funeral.

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## LIVERMORE CALIFORNIA

### PUBLIC WORKSHOP

For the City of Livermore Zoning Code Update

Robert Livermore Community Center - Cresta Blanca Ballroom, 4444 East Avenue

**Monday, January 12, 2009:** Opening Presentation 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Tuesday and Wednesday, January 13 and 14, 2009:**

- Open Door Studio 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Design Proposals and Form-Based Code Creation - 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Brown Bag Lunch Topics: Building types and density (Tuesday); Pedestrian-oriented street design (Wednesday) 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

**Thursday, January 15, 2009:** Closing Presentation 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

At the Charrette, we will solicit community input on how to apply Form-Based Codes to two designated Focus Areas - South of Downtown and North of Downtown - to emphasize the traditional patterns and character found in these older Livermore neighborhoods. One goal is to increase the walkability and transit ridership in these areas. The Charrette will allow participants to collaborate with planners, engineers, and architects to create a vision for the Focus Areas, including the character and scale of future development.

For more information, please call Christine Rodrigues in the Planning Division, at (925) 960-4450, or email her at [cnrodrigues@ci.livermore.ca.us](mailto:cnrodrigues@ci.livermore.ca.us).

**Palo Alto Medical Foundation**  
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## Dublin Center

4050 Dublin Boulevard  
(corner of Dublin Blvd. and Tassajara Rd.)  
Second Floor Conference Room  
[pamf.org](http://pamf.org)

## Community Education Programs

January 2009

### Featured Lecture

Anthony Dobson, M.D., Ph.D.  
FAMF Reproductive  
Endocrinology and Fertility

### Understanding Your Body: Fertility and Pregnancy Planning

**Wednesday, January 14, 6:30 - 8 p.m.**

Join us to learn more about the female and male reproductive systems, as well as factors that impact fertility, including fibroids, PCOS (polycystic ovary syndrome), endometriosis and much more. The speakers will also discuss treatment options that may help you achieve pregnancy.

Sunny Jun, M.D.  
FAMF Reproductive  
Endocrinology and Fertility

### Upcoming Lecture

Narigan Karnik, M.D., Ph.D.  
FAMF Psychiatry and  
Behavioral Health

### The Teen Brain

**Wednesday, February 18, 6:30 - 8 p.m.**

Ever wonder why your teenager sleeps so much? Why do teens argue and fight about everything? Dr. Karnik will discuss recent findings from neuroscience, psychology and sociological research that shed some light on how teenage brains work (or fail to work).

Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Dublin Center  
4050 Dublin Boulevard, 2nd Floor Conference Room  
Register today at 925-875-6464. No fee.