

the OUTLOOK



of Pleasant Hill

Pleasant Hill is a college town

—June Catalano, City Manager

Periodically we have a special insert focusing on such topics as the City at Work or the Budget in Brief. In this edition, we will be highlighting some of the educational resources in Pleasant Hill.

Most residents probably don't realize that Pleasant Hill is truly a college town, with two major educational institutions—Diablo Valley College and John F. Kennedy University.

In our College Town insert, you will learn how JFK University started 43 years ago with just 59 students in an old mortuary in Martinez. Today, the Pleasant Hill campus is home to around 1,800 students, and more than 29,000 have

passed through the University. For a privately funded institution, that is an incredible achievement, and the City is proud that JFK University's main campus is right here in Pleasant Hill.

We'll also highlight Diablo Valley College, which is a major feeder school to universities such as U.C. Berkeley. With 22,000 students, DVC is an integral part of our community and offers some of the highest quality liberal arts and sciences programs in the Bay Area.

And elsewhere in this edition –

- Check out our new City Website
- Learn about the upcoming celebrations for 50 years of baseball and softball in Pleasant Hill

- Find out where your property line runs
- Witness the incredible array of talent through 'Star Quest'
- Determine if you need a building permit for your remodel or addition
- Check out this year's Earth Day activities in Pleasant Hill
- Learn about the upcoming Citizen Police Academy
- Find out how to celebrate Mardi Gras with the Friends of Rodgers Ranch
- Get the details on this year's Business Showcase, Health Fair, and lots more!

City launches exciting new website!

Clicking on the City site, www.ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us, will bring up a very different looking website today. The City, in collaboration with

CivicPlus, a company which specializes in government websites, turned on the new site on February 25.

The new homepage has more dynamic and robust features than before and some of the highlights include:

- An "Interactive Community Guide" with interactive maps showing restaurants, hotels, shops, and much more!
- A "Notify Me" feature that allows users to sign up for automatic notification of City agendas, minutes, meetings, job postings, etc.

- A new Police Department homepage with lots of information, advice, and online services
- A list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) with answers provided
- Easy access to all City Departments and Staff contact information
- Employment Opportunities and job descriptions that can be quickly found on the site... and there's lots more!

Feel free to explore the new site and send feedback to Martin Nelis at mnelis@ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us.





Citizen Police Academy beginning in April A "behind the scenes" look at law enforcement

The Citizen Police Academy provides community members with an inside look at local law enforcement. Topics include Patrol and Traffic Procedures, Firearms Training, Crime Scene Investigation, Police Canine, and much more!

Classes will be held at the Pleasant Hill Police Department on Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm to 9:30pm, beginning on April 2, 2008. Graduation will be held on Wednesday, June 18, 2008.

Applicants must be 18 years or older, and must reside or work in Pleasant Hill. Qualified applicants will be asked to participate in an oral interview process.

How to apply:

Applications may be obtained at the Pleasant Hill Police Department, City Hall, or at www.pleasanthillpd.com. Applications must be submitted by March 19, 2008.

For additional information about this program, call the Training Sergeant at (925) 288-4644.

New false alarm ordinance for the City

The City of Pleasant Hill recently adopted a new Alarm Ordinance. The changes to the Alarm Ordinance were implemented to encourage more responsible usage of alarm systems, to facilitate the Police Department's effective and efficient response to alarms, and to offset costs associated with managing the program.

False alarms now represent more than 97% of all alarm calls. Responding to false alarms hinders or delays our police officers from responding to other priority calls for service and to other needs within the community.

Effective January 17, 2008 alarm registrations are valid for one calendar year and must be renewed no later than January 15th of the following year. The initial permit fee is \$50; the renewal fee is \$25.00 if paid by January 15, 2009. Alarm permit renewals paid after January 15, 2009 cost \$50.

The City may assess a fee of \$100 for response to a second false alarm within a calendar year. Exceptions include multiple false alarms within a 24-hour period, false alarms caused by power failures, alarms cancelled prior to police response, and false alarms occurring during the 30-day period following installation and activation of an alarm system.

A complete copy of the Alarm Ordinance (PHMC 9.20) is available online at <http://www.ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us>.

For more information contact alarm administrator Maureen Rasmussen-Salveti at (925) 288-4632. ♣

Keep graffiti off our streets

Graffiti is more than just writing on the walls . . . it's vandalism of private or public property, and it affects everyone in the City. If you see someone painting or spraying graffiti, please call the Police Department immediately to report the location; the non-emergency number to use is (925) 288-4600. If possible, identify the suspect's appearance and the type of materials being used. With your help, we can stop the people responsible for the graffiti and eliminate the defacing of property.

If you notice graffiti on public property—such as street signs, sidewalks, light poles, City buildings, or utility boxes— please report it to the Maintenance Division at 925-671-4646. City



crews will generally respond within 72 hours. If the graffiti is on private property, such as buildings, parking lots, or fences, report it to the Code Enforcement Officer, Mike Lange, at (925) 671-5207. The responsible owners will be contacted and requested to have the graffiti removed as soon as possible. ♣



Volunteer needed for Architectural Review Commission

The City of Pleasant Hill currently has a vacancy on the Architectural Review Commission. The primary goal of this five-member Commission is to review site plans, architectural structures and signs related to new development in Pleasant Hill.

Applicants must have demonstrated talent and interest in aesthetics and architectural design through experience, training, education or occupation.

The Commission meets at City Hall on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 5:00pm. The term for this position expires in May 2012.

If you are interested in serving on this Commission and would like to receive an application, please contact Linda Stehr at (925) 671-5284 or e-mail to lstehr@ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us. The application deadline is March 30, 2008.



Where's my property line?

Have you ever thought about putting up a new side or rear property line fence, building a new accessory structure, or adding a building addition to your property—but to get started you want to know where the property line is so you can measure the required setback?

Have you ever had a disagreement with a neighbor as to where your property ends and theirs begins? Are you just curious to know how big, or small, your property is? This article may contain the information for you.

In a previous article, information was provided to help determine where your front or street corner side property line may end and the public right-of-way begins. In this article we will expand this topic to include side and rear property lines.

Isn't the fence/wall the property line?

The quick answer—maybe. Some of you may assume that the fence that separates your home from your neighbors is the property line. This is not always the case. Sometimes it may represent the property line, and sometimes it doesn't. Sometimes fences are built a little or a lot off from where the property line is actually located. Using an existing fence or wall to determine your property line would be termed the *assumed* property line. If you want to know for sure, read on.

So how do I know for sure?

The only accurate way to know for sure is to have a licensed/registered surveyor come out to your property and measure out exactly where your property line is located. Normally, once a site is surveyed, survey markings will be left behind in the ground to signify where the property line is located.

Can the City or the County determine property lines?

Unfortunately, neither can determine exact property lines at this time.

What if I have more questions?

For additional information you can contact the Planning Division at (925) 671-5209 or Engineering Division at (925) 671-5264 or click on the "Contact Us" button on the City website. ♣



Pipeline replacement along Iron Horse Trail

Through September, the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) will be replacing an aging 12-inch diameter water pipeline in the Iron Horse Corridor between Treat Boulevard and Walden Road. The trail will remain open and accessible to the public for the majority of the project. Temporary fencing will be installed between the trail and the project area for public safety.

While the project is underway, trail users and nearby residents can expect:

- Construction activity from 7am to 5pm, Monday through Friday
- Construction traffic entering and exiting from Walden Road to access the site
- Trail use restrictions and reduced accessibility as necessary
- Noise and dust control in accordance with City of Walnut Creek requirements

The CCWD appreciates your help in making this important pipeline replacement project a success. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Gina Oltman at (925) 688-8010.

Letter to homeowners from the City Building Crew

BUILDING PERMITS

The easiest way to find out if you need a permit is to call your Building Division. The staff is here to assist the community by providing information addressing all types of construction, as well as an understanding of your local building codes. Be sure to discuss your project with the Building, Planning, & Engineering Division staff *before* you begin construction to determine whether you need a permit. The City has reasonable permit fees for residential work. Some examples of minor permit fees are:

■ Re-roof	approx \$80.00
■ Water heater replacement	\$57.78
■ Furnace and/or air-conditioner	\$57.78
■ Electric work	\$57.78
■ Gasline repairs/replacements	\$57.78
■ Fireplace inserts	\$57.78

Permit fees for additions, remodels, and some repairs are based on the square footage added for the cost of the construction. All permits include scheduled inspections by the Building Division staff to confirm adherence to local codes, which are in place to preserve public health, safety, and welfare. The Building Division does not charge inspection fees – the initial permit fee is all that is needed. The cost of permits include the staff's time to prepare, issue, and inspect the work.

We are here to work with you.

Sincerely,

Mike, Vicki, Ed, and Brent
City Building Division, 671-5200

Get ready for spring cleaning

Now is the time to begin pruning and cleaning up after the winter storms to get your property ready for spring.

Look around your home for leaves, sticks, and debris that have fallen during winter rains, and then dispose of them in the green-waste container.

Remember that large piles of debris and leaves cannot be cleaned up by the street sweeper service. The sweeper equipment is designed to pick up a small layer of leaves, but is unable to process large piles of leaves. In addition, any hidden objects, such as rocks or bricks that may be covered by a pile of leaves, could easily damage the sweeper equipment. The driver will steer around the pile to avoid potential damage. Therefore, it is important not to rake or blow leaves or debris into the street. Look for and remove broken branches that may fall into the streets or creeks and help maintain clean drainage systems for spring run-off.

Also, please look around your property and help maintain the trees and shrubs in the area. They should be pruned for proper site clearance. It is the property owner's responsibility to make sure that street lights, stop signs, and crosswalks are not being blocked by vegetation that originates on privately owned property.

The City Maintenance crews regularly prune City-owned trees and clear debris when it enters the public right-of way. Working together we can maintain safe roadways and drainage systems throughout the City. ♣

FREE compost workshops

Composting yard and garden waste has never been easier, thanks to the help offered from the City's home composting education program.

The City of Pleasant Hill is offering two free compost workshops on Wednesday, March 12 and Wednesday, April 16. These workshops start at 7:00pm and will be held in the Community Room at City Hall, 100 Gregory Lane. The City has made arrangements to have Smith & Hawkins compost bins available for sale at the workshops. The bins sell for \$75 each for residents and can be purchased with cash or check.

To sign up for the workshops or if you have questions about the compost bins, contact Annette Kaufmann with the Public Works and Community Development Department at 671-5265. ♣

Friends of Pleasant Hill Creeks plans for Earth Day 2008 event

The Friends of Pleasant Hill Creeks (FOPH) will hold its next meeting on April 9 at 7:00pm in the large Community Room at City Hall.

Brian Murphy of the Open Space Foundation and Save Mount Diablo will be the guest lecturer. He will talk about wildlife in our creeks and the surrounding area.

The agenda will include a planning session for the Annual Earth Day Ellinwood Creek Cleanup and Restoration project scheduled for April 19. The event will start at the Boy Scouts Building at 800 Ellinwood Way and run from 8:30am to 2pm. After the event there will be a barbecue for all of the volunteers.

Every Saturday FOPH will have a creek clean-up day that runs from 9am to 11am. This is a perfect opportunity for anyone who wants to help improve Pleasant Hill's natural habitat and terrain, or needs to put in Community Volunteer time for a school or other organization. For information on Saturday creek clean-ups or meetings, and other FOPH Creeks items, you may visit their website at: www.fophcreeks.land4urbanwildlife.org.

You are encouraged to sign up with their electronic mailing list to receive pertinent e-mail postings on creek related issues and FOPH Creeks announcements. You will find a link to the sign-up page on the website above or you can write to fophcreeks@land4urbanwildlife.org and request to have your e-mail address added. You may also write to FOPH about any creek related issues or questions you may have. ♣

Pleasant Hill Garden Study Club makes donations to aid in community beautification

Donations totaling \$2,250 were recently made by the Pleasant Hill Garden Study Club (PHGSC) to four area nonprofit organizations that reflect the club's mission of community beautification.

Recipients of the funds are the Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District, Markham Regional Arboretum, the Gardens at Heather Farm, and Ruth Bancroft Gardens.

The donations are made possible by proceeds from the club's annual plant sale. The 2008 plant sale will be held May 10 at the Winslow Center, located at the corner of Pleasant Hill Road and Taylor Blvd.

The club meets at 7pm on the first Tuesday of each month (except July and December) at the Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Drive. Guests are welcome. For more information call Eileen Housfeld, 944-4898, or visit the club's website at www.phgsc.com. ♣



'Building Green' in Pleasant Hill

The City of Pleasant Hill and the Chamber of Commerce Green Business Committee have joined together to form a Green Building Program workgroup.

The group will be meeting periodically to develop goals for the program consistent with the missions of both organizations and then to map out a methodology for achieving those goals as they relate to construction activity here in Pleasant Hill.

Though still undefined, it was agreed in the workgroup's first meeting that a program should promote education about green building materials and methods and the issues surrounding this frequently misunderstood practice.

Global warming has been in the public eye for many years and despite the increased visibility of green building there is still much confusion about what is required to build green. Green building is a "Whole-Systems" approach to designing and constructing buildings that conserve energy, water, and material resources and are healthier, safer, and more comfortable.

The Green Business Committee of the Chamber of Commerce is interested in environmental sustainability as it relates to business practices. The development of a green building program is consistent with this interest and with one of the Chamber's broader goals of promoting our community. The progress of the workgroup as well as new information about green building will appear in future editions of the Outlook. ♣



Library Web Wizard Workshop

KIDS! Don't wander the web—go to cclib.org instead

On Monday, March 10 at 7pm, 3rd-5th grade students, parents, and teachers are invited to the Pleasant Hill Library to learn how the library can help them find the information they need to complete school assignments 24/7 from their home computer! Learn how easy it is to read and print information from library reference books, magazines, and newspapers by using Contra Costa County Library's databases.

Space for this workshop is limited. Please call 646-6434 or visit the Programs & Events page at www.ccclib.org to register.

Project Second Chance

Literacy Tutor Training—Help an Adult Learn to Read

Project Second Chance (PSC), the Contra Costa County Library Adult literacy Program, announces tutor training for VOLUNTEER literacy tutors.

- **WHEN:** Wednesday evening, April 30, 6:30–8:30pm, and continues May 3 and 10, 9am–3pm. All 14 hours are required.
- **WHERE:** Training will be held at the PSC office, 75 Santa Barbara Road in Pleasant Hill. Please call 925-927-3250 or email at psc@cclib.org for pre-registration information.
- **VOLUNTEERS:** You have the power to help! ♣

Help give hope...help build hands at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and Pleasant Hill Rotary are sponsoring an event for the community to build prosthetic hands that will bring hope to a child or adult in a developing nation. The Church will become a large assembly line where anyone can learn part of the assembly to make hands. Please plan on attending for an hour and a half on Wednesday, **April 9** from 6:00 to 8:30pm and Sunday, **April 13** from 2pm to 5pm at 1601 Mary Drive (next to Garden Hill School across the street from the P.H. Community Center).



St. Andrew's youth group and other adults are trained and ready to teach people of all ages how to construct one section of the hand



assembly. Small children can color pictures to be sent with the hands to people in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and many other places. They hope to put together over 500 hands at the two events.

Please email the Church at SAPC@presbynet.org or call 925-685-4720 if you would like to make a huge difference in someone's life. ♣

GOT E-WASTE?

FREE E-Waste Recycling Event

DIABLO VALLEY COLLEGE



Rain or Shine

Overflow parking lot 7
321 Golf Club Rd

NO limit

1st Saturday each month • 9am–1pm

Drop-off is FREE and ASSISTED!

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Items accepted: | ◆ Cell Phones | ◆ Telephone Equipment |
| ◆ Televisions | ◆ Copiers | ◆ Video Games |
| ◆ Fax Machines | ◆ Toner cartridges | ◆ Scrap metal/wire |
| ◆ VCRs & DVDs | ◆ Computer & Components | |
| ◆ MP3 Players | ◆ Toner Cartridges | <i>PLEASE...NO household appliances or fluorescent bulbs</i> |
| ◆ Monitors | ◆ Power cables | |
| ◆ Printers | | |

www.noewaste.com • 866.335.3373

Concert planned to benefit teen music

Cover2Cover, a local high-energy dance band, will perform at the Pleasant Hill Community Center on Friday, March 28.

This show, for adults 21 years and over, is sponsored by Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District and the City of Pleasant Hill and is a benefit concert to raise money for the Garage Bands at the Lake Concert series held during the summer months for Teens.



The evening of March 28 will feature popular music from the last four decades, drawings, auctions, complimentary hors d'oeuvres, and beer and wine from Pleasant Hill Wine Merchants available for purchase.

The Garage Band Concert series debuted last summer and was a popular Friday night event designed for teens. The series features local teen bands and offers a positive experience for teens who enjoy spending summer evenings in downtown Pleasant Hill. Five concerts are tentatively scheduled for the summer of 2008.

Tickets for the benefit concert are available for \$15 in advance at the Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District Office, 147 Gregory Lane, or 682-0896. The concert will take place at 7:30pm at the Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Drive. Tickets will also be on sale at the door for \$20 per person.

All persons must be 21 years of age or older to attend. For information on donating to the event, please contact Katrina Hunn at khunn@pleasanthillrec.com. ♣

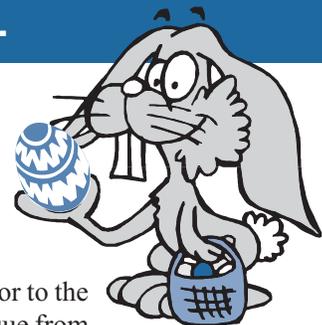
Egg-Citing springtime activities from PHR&PD

Grab your basket and bonnet and head for Pleasant Hill Park on Saturday, March 22, for breakfast, a boutique, and an exciting Egg Hunt.

Start off at the PH Senior Center (right next door to the Park) for the fabulous Pancake Breakfast & Boutique from 8am until 11am. You'll find great bargains on hand-made craft items, and breakfast is a steal at just \$3 for adults, \$2/youth, and *free* for toddlers, 4 years and younger. Enjoy all the pancakes you can eat—hot off the griddle, sausage, orange juice, coffee, and milk.

Starting at 10:30am, children up to 10 years old can join in the fun of the annual "Egg" Citing Egg Hunt presented by the Lions Club and the Recreation & Park District. Plan on catching the Pleasant Hill Express which will run all morning long. Other "egg" citing activities are planned.

Music and check-in for the Egg Hunt begin at 9:30am. Reservations are required—call (925) 676-5200, \$6 per child.



You are invited to the 8th annual Night of Irish Merriment!

The Rotary Club of Pleasant Hill—along with sponsors Outback Steakhouse, Black Diamond Brewery, and Pleasant Hill Wine Merchants—is proudly hosting their raucous celebration of St Patrick's Day on Friday, March 14. Enjoy an Irish dinner of corned beef, cabbage, and Guinness meatballs. The Night of Merriment also includes Irish entertainment, silent and live auctions, raffles, and door prizes.

Funds raised from the evening will go back to the community in the form of grants to local community groups and a portion to the LN-4 prosthetic hand project.

The simple spring-loaded prosthetic hand (LN-4), manufactured for only \$50, is changing lives in Third World countries around the world. Initial research and development was funded by Pleasant Hill Rotary. And now club members, and many other members of clubs in California, Oregon, and elsewhere are doing fundraising and leading overseas trips to distribute this hand, free of charge, to countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America (see article, page 5).

What better way to celebrate St Patrick's Day with friends and family! Tickets are available for \$40 per person by calling Stacy Antonel at 671-5853. This evening is always a sell-out, so call soon! ♣

Pleasant Hill Rotary Club and Sponsors invite you to...

St. Patrick's

Night of Merriment!

Fri, Mar 14, 6:00pm

PH COMMUNITY CENTER

320 Civic Dr, Pleasant Hill

Traditional Irish Dinner...GREEN Beer

Full bar & wine...Irish entertainment

Silent and Live Auctions and Raffle prizes!!



If you are not already Irish... you will be after this party!

SUPPORTING LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS \$40 Advance Tickets call 671-5853 (Stacy)

Sponsors: Outback Steakhouse, Black Diamond Brewery, PH Wine Merchants & Wilma Lott Catering

Partnership for Success Job Fair

Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District and Diablo Valley College are teaming up to offer the seventh annual "Partnership for Success" Job Fair.

Last year this event drew between 1200-1500 job seekers and had over 50 vendors recruiting for employees.

For employers interested in participating, the fee is \$90 for a six-foot display table, and continental breakfast. The deadline is March 30. For information, employers should contact Katrina Hunn, (925) 682-0896, or khunn@pleasanthillrec.com.

The event is free to job seekers. Partnership for Success is scheduled for Wednesday, April 16, 10am-1pm, at Diablo Valley College, in the Diablo Room. ♣



The Contra Costa International Jewish Film Festival

Film Festival brings you the world

"See a Film, See the World" is the motto of the Contra Costa International Jewish Film Festival, which will start its one-week run at the Pleasant Hill CineArts on March 1.

Enjoy films from France, Hungary, South Africa, Holland and Israel, including *Beaufort*, one of the foreign films nominated for this year's Oscar. For more information or to purchase tickets on-line, go to eastbayjewishfilm.org. ♣

Celebrate women in literature

Readers and writers will want to save Saturday, April 19, for *Literary Women*, Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District's award-winning festival of authors.

This year's showcase features:

- **Anita Amirrezvani**, author of *Blood of Flowers*, a story set in 17th-century Persia in which a 14-year-old woman faces a dramatic change when her father dies suddenly.
- **Jacqueline Winspear**, author of the Maisie Dobbs mystery series, born and raised in Kent, England. Her first novel, *Maisie Dobbs* won two prestigious Best First Novel awards: the Agatha Award and the Macavity Award.
- **Liza Dalby**, anthropologist and novelist specializing in Japanese culture, author of *Geisha* (filmed as *American Geisha*) and *East Wind Melts the Ice*. She worked as a consultant on Arthur Golden's 2005 film *Memoirs of a Geisha*.
- **Claire Hope Cummings**, an environmental lawyer, journalist, and the author of *Uncertain Peril: Genetic Engineering and the Future of Seeds*, due in book stores in March 2008.

In addition to the four speakers, morning coffee and rolls, a boxed lunch, book sales, and book signing with the authors complete the day. Tickets available now for \$41 per person or \$328 for a table of eight.

Reservations are being accepted now. Literary Women will be held at the Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Drive. For information, contact Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District, 676-5200. ♣

Friends of Rodgers Ranch invites you to join them for a night of eating, drinking and dancing on Bourbon Street in celebration of...

Mardi Gras

Friday, April 11, 2008, 6:30-11:30pm
Pleasant Hill Community Center
320 Civic Dr (off Taylor Blvd)

Cajun cuisine by Lesley Stiles
No-host bar (daiquiris, beer, wine)
Silent Auction Raffle

\$40/person

Featuring **Jim Caroompas** and the **Very Bad Boys Band**

Prizes for costumes!
Best female, Best male
Best couple
masks will be available for purchase
MC Mayor John Hanecak

For tickets, mail check with names of people attending to:
FORR, P.O. Box 23381, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
or call 925.937.3677

Proceeds will go toward restoring Rodgers Ranch

...health fair, golf, youth talent, and grants!

Healthy Living

Pleasant Hill Health & Wellness Fair

Health Fair 2008

Come join the Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce on April 24th at the Pleasant Hill Community Center for the Third Annual Health Fair. Featured will be local exercise studios, massage and nutrition experts as well as emergency preparedness experts to help with health after a disaster.

This year will introduce "10,000 Steps," a program to help motivate Pleasant Hill residents to get out and move. The first 500 people who come out to see the fun will get a free pedometer to help in counting those steps.

This year's fair is sponsored by David Deustcher and Company and Club Sport.

For more info contact the chamber office at 687-0700 or on line at www.pleasanthillchamber.com. ♣

Pleasant Hill Sunvalley GOLF CLASSIC

Monday, May 12
Contra Costa Country Club

Tee up for the Youth and the Seniors of Pleasant Hill

Individual entry \$225
Foursome \$850
4-person scramble/handicap format Includes: green fees, cart, lunch, dinner, contests, prizes

Entry deadline: April 30!

INTERESTED? Call 682-0896

SUNVALLEY SHOPPING CENTER

VARIETY OF SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE!

16th Annual Star Quest... "That's Show Biz!"

A special treat is in store for Star Quest goers...and for those who haven't yet had the good luck to see this special production. This year's show—"That's Show Biz"—is on Saturday, May 3 at 7pm and Sunday May 4, at 2pm at the DVC Performing Arts Theatre.



In this year's show you will have an opportunity to see the end result of some hard work and enjoy some delightful entertainment featuring over 40 young performers. The show and young stars will warm your hearts and send you home with a smile on your face. So, sit back, relax, and enjoy as Star Quest 2008 presents "That's Show Biz" and a variety of other theatrical entertainment!

Brainchild of producer Jim Nunes, Star Quest was started with the intent of providing a positive program where young individuals of the community, in grades K through 12, could showcase their artistic and theatrical talents and strengthen their confidence, stage presence, self esteem and ability to interact with an audience. Since the beginning of this program 16 years ago, Star Quest has given over 1,000 young entertainers and artists a forum and opportunity to audition, perform and display their talents for their family members, friends and community.

Star Quest is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Pleasant Hill and many of the members work on the committee and during the shows.

Tickets may be purchased at PH Police Department, PH Community Center, or PH Recreation & Park District Office on Gregory Lane. Don't miss this very special performance! ♣

Local Dollars Meeting Local Needs:

PHCF prepares to award 2008 community grants

The Pleasant Hill Community Foundation (PHCF) is pleased to announce its 14th Annual Community Grant Awards. Applications for grants up to \$1,000.00 will be accepted for cultural, educational, health and human care, and recreational projects from any public non-profit organization or a group serving the residents of Pleasant Hill. Applicants must meet IRS non-profit status with a current 501(c)(3) number.

PHCF has awarded grants in previous years for purchase of musical instruments, sports equipment, park improvements, murals, special programming for seniors, support for reading programs, and many other community activities and projects. These grants are funded entirely by donations.

The application deadline is March 14, 2008 and grant awards will be announced in April. Non-profit organizations interested in applying for a grant may contact the Grant Allocations Committee Chair Carol Somerton at 933-5499 or Secretary Jill Anderson at 925-932-2063.

The Pleasant Hill Community Foundation is run entirely by volunteers, and its goal is to enhance the quality of life in the Pleasant Hill community. The Foundation's most recent project towards this goal was the new water-feature Sprayground in Pleasant Hill Aquatic Park. Construction of the Sprayground was completed last fall, and a grand opening celebration will be held on May 24.

To learn more about PHCF and how you can help it serve the community, go to www.hometown.aol.com/phcfound. ♣

Pleasant Hill Community Foundation

PHBA celebrates 50 years

2008 marks Pleasant Hill Baseball Association's 50th year of youth baseball and softball in Pleasant Hill. Opening day this year is Saturday, March 15. The parade will begin at the corner of Boyd Road and Patterson Blvd promptly at 8:00am!

All 90 teams will parade up Patterson Blvd. to Hawthorne and end at their new Sports Complex for opening day ceremonies, including the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for their new snack shack. The great Vida Blue will be joining them in the parade and will be available to sign autographs after the opening ceremonies.

PHBA is very fortunate to have Jim Forney participating in this year's festivities and parade. Mr. Forney is one of the last surviving members of the original PHBA board from 1958 and, along with a few other parents from the community, created PHBA as it is known today. The board members unanimously elected him as the honorary Grand Marshall of the parade.

Also joining him in the parade will be his son Jim Forney Jr. His son played on teams from the very first year of PHBA'S existence. They have some awesome stories to share from the very first days of the league. They have very generously donated several items from the first years for all to enjoy, including an original uniform which will be on display at the new sports complex. Hooray for the Forneys!

PHBA want to extend thanks to all who have kept them going for 50 years—from all the past Presidents, Board of Directors, Board of Commissioners to the present; to all the managers and coaches, umpires and volunteers; and last but certainly not least, the reason PHBA was founded in the first place, the kids! They are the greatest!

Join them for the day and enjoy the all-American games of baseball and softball. There's plenty of family fun and games to enjoy throughout the day! Come by and see the new sports complex and enjoy a bite to eat on their very special day. Happy 50th Anniversary, PHBA!!! ♣

A Toast to Summer at the City Hall Lake!

Think of a warm summer evening; imagine food that will make your taste buds go wild and wine from the finest vines—throw in music that will get you singing and dancing by night's end, and you've landed yourself at the City Hall Lake on May 31st.

The Chamber of Commerce is planning a signature event that will feature all of the above and much more. So mark your calendars now and prepare for the event of the summer!

"A Toast to Summer—An Evening on the Lake" is a fundraiser for the Chamber of Commerce but a portion of the funds will go to NEAR, a local non-profit that promotes nutrition education and agricultural sustainability. Established in 2004 by the Contra Costa Certified Farmers' Markets, NEAR's mission is to educate and increase consumption of local and seasonal fresh fruits and vegetables. Their goals include promoting activities at local schools such as veggie gardens, salad bars and Harvest-of-the-Month programs.

Stay tuned for more details on this *Toast to Summer* event. For more information contact the Chamber at 674-0700. ♣

Local Families needed to host international students

The International Education Center at Diablo Valley College (IEC@DVC) provides intensive English language programs for students from around the world. IEC@DVC is looking for local families to host international students on a temporary basis while they improve their English skills. Long or short-term placements are available. Last year, over 300 international students were placed with local host families, and this year even greater enrollment numbers are expected. Therefore there is an immediate need to add additional families to the homestay registry.

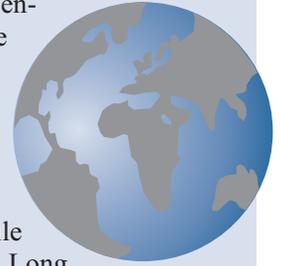
Host families that participate in the program are paid a monthly stipend of \$750 per student. The requirements for being a host family are simple:

- Provide two meals per day (three meals on weekends) and a private bedroom for the student—all within a supportive family environment.
- Be involved in the student's life and treat them as a family member.

Host families are not required to consist of the traditional family unit—two parents and children. Rather, all types of families are welcome, including single adults with or without children, and couples with or without children. If they wish, families may also host multiple students, as long as they can provide the appropriate accommodations.

Sharing your home with an international student offers your family a wonderful opportunity to learn about the way of life in a different country, as well as being able to introduce the student to living in America. Learning about the culture, language, and customs of another country can be an exciting adventure, not to mention a rich and rewarding cultural experience that often results in lifelong friendships.

For more information about becoming a host family, please contact IEC@DVC's Housing Coordinator, Ms. Fia Parker at (925) 876-0080, or by email at fparker@dvc.edu. ♣



Pleasant Hill welcomes new businesses...

The City of Pleasant Hill is committed to promoting and supporting the business community within the City. The economic vitality of Pleasant Hill is dependent on a strong business sector and the City plays an important role in making this happen.

To find out more about Economic Development efforts in Pleasant Hill or for additional information on locating or expanding your business operations in the city, please contact Kelly Calhoun at 671-5213.

New businesses in December 2007

Blue Salon & Spa

(Nair, Nails, Facials, Wax)
1920 Contra Costa Blvd.
925-689-7775

Bonnie Cardall (Massage Therapy)

140 Mayhew Way, #100
925-286-4763

California Kids Auto Sales

(Retail Auto Sales)
3333 Vincent Road, #216
925-727-4500

Chiropeutic Innovations

(Chiropractic Office)
1610 Oak Park Blvd., #2
925-934-5088

Cooperformance

(Retail Auto Dealer – Used Cars)
3333 Vincent Road, #102
650-533-8132

F. Michael Hanson (Attorney)

3478 Buskirk Ave., #265
925-944-1665

Los Dos Hermanos Restaurant #2

508 Q Contra Costa Blvd.
925-674-1045

Marie's Designer Outlet

(Designer Boutique Outlet)
1630 A Contra Costa Blvd.
925-798-1177

Master Touch Chiropractic

1100 Pleasant Valley Dr.
925-890-6036

Diablo Orchids

(Sale of orchids through internet)
www.diablorchids.com

Galvanic Communications

(Admin Office)
925-989-1078

Mary Weber Landscape Architect

925-915-0390

Wavebourn

(Developer of Electronic Equipment)
925-935-5534

New businesses in January 2008

Annie Raya (Fitness Training)

2254 A Morello Avenue
925-848-8464

Eye 4 Design (Interior Design

Service-Project Planning)
2255 Morello Ave., #117
925-708-4592

Healing Garden Spa

(Massage & Spa)
200 Gregory Ln., #100
925-691-5328

Myra Nissen Chom

(Homeopathic Practitioner)
101 Gregory Ln., #46
925-826-3858

National Liquor

(Liquor/Convenience Store)
1683 Contra Costa Blvd.
925-348-4700

Redwood Maintenance/Landscape

(Landscaping/Cleaning Service)
630 Tempe Ct.
925-788-6624

Rev. Gary Leon Jaffe, VII (Massage)

140 Mayhew Way, #100
925-210-1111

Sangha & Sahota Fast & Easy #2

(Liquor/Convenience Store)
2001 Contra Costa Blvd., #A20
925-674-1343

DD Ventures (Internet Marketing)

510-432-0313

Gustavo Fernandez Photography

(Wedding/Portrait Photography)
925-689-1935

Products With Passion

(Online Sales of Digital Products)
925-691-4207

Salonscope.com (Website-Salon

Owners/List Rental Space)
925-808-9187

Sidwell Investigations, Inc.

(Private Investigations)
925-957-0510

Simpson Investigation Service

(Private Investigative Service)
925-969-9590



EXPAND your Network...ADVANCE your Business At Business Showcase 2008

services, organizations, and schools to see what they offer and how they are involved in your community.

This is a high-energy event, sponsored by PG&E and Allied Waste Services, with lots of excitement including drawings, prizes, and food from local restaurants like La Tapatia, Magoo's Grill, and Tahoe Joe's. Some of the local exhibiting businesses are AAA Insurance Services, Dutch Boy Window Cleaning, Pacific Service Credit Union, Escobar Tailors, and Hauling Pros.

Get a chair massage from Pleasant Hill Professional Massage Group, and then see what Kelly Ann's Day Spa has to offer. Or enjoy a pulled pork poor boy

sandwich and find out what you have to do to work it off. Angie Renghini of Smokin' Oakies BBQ loves to show off what she can do. "We run a local, family oriented restaurant and I like to meet people that may not have tried us yet," says Angie. "Pleasant Hill businesses have their own unique energy and are fun to be around," says Mark Celio of Club 50 Fitness. "I can't think of a better way to come and see what your neighborhood has to offer for services!"

Come for the networking, stay for the fun! For information or to be an exhibitor call Pleasant Hill Chamber at 687-0700 or go to www.pleasanthillchamber.com. ♣

The Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce presents **Business Showcase 2008: EXPAND your Network... ADVANCE your Business**, on Thursday, March 27 from 4:00–7:30pm at the Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Dr. (2 blocks west of Sunvalley Mall off Taylor Blvd.

This event is FREE to the public and offers an excellent opportunity to meet and network with a diverse group of local businesses, city government, community

City Meetings

MARCH

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
Mon 3 7:30pm	City Council-Redevelopment Agency	Council Chambers
Wed 5 9:00am	Commission on Aging	City Hall Small Community Room
Wed 5 2:00pm	Zoning Administrator (Public Hearing)	Planning/Public Works Conference Room
Wed 5 6:30pm	Civic Action Commission	City Hall Small Community Room
Thu 6 5:00pm	Architectural Review Commission	City Hall Small Community Room
Tue 11 6:00pm	Traffic Safety Commission	City Hall Community Room
Tue 11 7:30pm	Planning Commission (Public Hearing)	Council Chambers
Mon 17 7:30pm	Redevelopment Agency-City Council	Council Chambers
Wed 19 2:00pm	Zoning Administrator (Public Hearing)	Planning/Public Works Conference Room
Thu 20 5:00pm	Architectural Review Commission	City Hall Small Community Room
Tue 25 7:30pm	Planning Commission (Public Hearing)	Council Chambers
Wed 26 7:00pm	Education/Schools Advisory Commission	City Hall Small Community Room
Wed 27 7:00pm	Redevelopment Advisory Commission	City Hall Large Community Room

APRIL

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
Wed 2 9:00am	Commission on Aging	City Hall Small Community Room
Wed 2 2:00pm	Zoning Administrator (Public Hearing)	Planning/Public Works Conference Room
Wed 2 6:30pm	Civic Action Commission	City Hall Small Community Room
Thu 3 5:00pm	Architectural Review Commission	City Hall Small Community Room
Mon 7 7:30pm	City Council-Redevelopment Agency	Council Chambers
Tue 8 6:00pm	Traffic Safety Commission	City Hall Large Community Room
Tue 8 7:30pm	Planning Commission (Public Hearing)	Council Chambers
Wed 16 2:00pm	Zoning Administrator (Public Hearing)	Planning/Public Works Conference Room
Thu 17 5:00pm	Architectural Review Commission	City Hall Small Community Room
Mon 21 7:30pm	Redevelopment Agency-City Council	Council Chambers
Tue 22 7:30pm	Planning Commission (Public Hearing)	Council Chambers
Wed 23 7:00pm	Education/Schools Advisory Commission	City Manager's Conference Room
Thu 24 7:00pm	Redevelopment Advisory Commission	City Hall Large Community Room



CITY OF PLEASANT HILL

100 Gregory Lane
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523-3323
925-671-5270
www.pleasanthill.ca.gov

CITY OFFICIALS

Mayor John Hanecak
Vice Mayor Suzanne Angeli

Councilmembers

David E. Durant
Michael G. Harris
Terri L. Williamson

City Manager June Catalano
City Clerk Marty McInturf
Treasurer Suzanne J. Salter

City Council meetings are broadcast on Comcast channel 26 on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7:30pm.

CITY HALL HOURS

Monday-Wednesday 8:30am-5:00 pm
Thursday 8:30am-6:00 pm
Friday 8:30am-1:00 pm



The City of Pleasant Hill newsletter is published bimonthly. Deadline for stories and story ideas for May/June is April 7. Ideas are always welcome. Local non-profit groups may submit articles to the Public Information Officer at 100 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523. For information, call Martin Nelis at 671-5229, fax to 680-0294, or email to mnelis@ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us.

PUBLISHED ON RECYCLED PAPER



Editor/Writer Martin Nelis, PIO
Design/misc photos Donaghu Graphic Designs

COVER: Lake at award winning City Hall.

Important Phone Numbers

Police/Fire Emergency 911
Police (Business) 288-4600
Fire (Business) 930-5500
Public Services Center 671-4646
Chamber of Commerce 687-0700
Recreation & Parks 682-0896
PH Bayshore Disposal 685-4711
PG&E 800-743-5000
Senior Center 798-8788
Senior Van Service 671-5272

Inside this issue . . .

Pleasant Hill is a college town	1
City launches new website	1
Citizen Police Academy	2
City adopts new alarm ordinance	2
Opening in Architectural Review Commission	3
Where's my property line?	3
Building permits	3
Caring for our environment	4,5
Library programs for young and old	5
Help assemble prosthetic hands	5
What's happening in the community	6-8
Benefit for Teen Concerts	6
Rotary's St Patrick's celebration	6
Partnership for Success Job Fair	7
Friends of Rodgers Ranch host Mardi Gras	7
Celebrate women in literature	7
Star Quest youth talent show	8
PHCF prepares to award grants	8
PHBA celebrates 50 years	9
Host international students for DVC	9
New businesses	10
Business Showcase	10
City Meetings	11
City Officials	11
New garbage rates and recycling	12



New garbage rates and weekly recycling begins March 31, 2008

Allied Waste Services is boosting recycling service to weekly collections for all Pleasant Hill residents, beginning March 31, 2008. The new garbage rates, which take effect April 1, 2008, will encourage residents to recycle more and produce less waste—see the accompanying chart for the new rates.

Residents can continue using their current garbage cart at the new rates or switch to either a 20-, 32-, 64- or 96-gallon cart at the new rates. Rates are based on the container volume of your garbage cart. There will be no change to your brown recycling cart or your green waste cart.

Allied Waste Services will begin replacing carts on March 31, 2008. To place your new cart order call Allied Waste directly at (925) 685-4711.

The cart exchanges will be done on the same day as your regular service day in April. You will receive your new rate on April 1 regardless of when you get your new garbage cart.

The increased recycling service and rate changes for garbage are necessary to ensure that the City meets state requirements to divert at least 50 percent of its solid waste from landfills. Failure to meet those requirements may result in the state levying penalties of \$10,000 per day against the City.

For more information contact Martin Nelis at mnelis@ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us or call (925)-671-5229. ♣

CART SIZE (GALLONS)	CURRENT MONTHLY RATE	NEW MONTHLY RATE	DISCOUNTED SENIOR RATE*	
			CURRENT RATE	NEW RATE
20	\$23.46	\$19.00	\$21.26	\$17.10
32	\$25.46	\$22.00	N/A	\$19.80
64	\$25.96	\$30.00	N/A	\$27.00**
96	\$26.46	\$45.00	\$24.13	\$40.50**

* To qualify for the discounted Senior Rate you must be 62 years or older and have a household income of \$29,300 or less after April 1, 2008.

** Rates for existing customers enrolled in the senior discount program with a 96-gallon cart, and who are now paying \$24.13, will continue to pay that amount after April 1, 2008. If they choose to downsize their 96-gallon cart to a 64-gallon cart they will also continue to pay the \$24.13 rate. All seniors who downsize to a 32 or 20-gallon cart will pay the new rates as outlined in the table above.



City of Pleasant Hill
 100 Gregory Lane
 Pleasant Hill, CA 94523-3323
www.pleasanthill.ca.gov



Sunday, March 9

**CAR-RT SORT STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 CONCORD, CA
 PERMIT NO. 21**

POSTAL CUSTOMER