

the OUTLOOK

of Pleasant Hill, California

Light Up The NIGHT!

in Downtown
Pleasant Hill

Wed ♦ Dec 4 ♦ 5:00-8:00pm
Crescent Drive, Downtown Pleasant Hill

Santa is all set to arrive on December 4th to join in the many festivities in Downtown Pleasant Hill by lighting the 25-foot decorated tree in the Plaza on Crescent Drive at 6:00pm.

Music, dance performances and caroling will also be on stage at the Downtown Plaza next to Sweet Tomatoes. Performers this year will include the College Park High School Jazz Band and Choir, Studio A Dancers and the Lamorinda Theatre Academy Ensemble.



Everyone is invited to celebrate the start of the Holiday season with free horse drawn carriage rides, and free cookies, hot chocolate and coffee. Families can have pictures taken with Santa and his elves in the plaza area next to the tree, and look out for Frosty, Rudolph, and other costumed characters.

New this year is an "Elf on the Shelf" competition involving the Downtown merchants with special prizes for the winners. Just find the Elf in each retail location to enter the contest.

The PH Recreation & Park District will be hosting a Holiday Crafts Fair on Crescent Drive with lots of wonderful holiday gifts on sale. If you wish to be a vendor call Katrina Hunn at 771-7632 or download the vendor form at www.pleasant-hill.net/vendor.

This event is jointly organized by the City of Pleasant Hill, Downtown Pleasant Hill, PH Chamber of Commerce and Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District.

For more information call (925) 671-5229 or email mnelis@ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us



KEEP IT LOCAL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

—Kelly Calhoun, Economic Development Manager

The month of November is the start of the busy holiday season, with Thanksgiving on November 28th. As you begin to think about and plan your holiday celebrations don't forget the importance of shopping locally. Pleasant Hill has a wide variety of retailers and shopping options and plenty of restaurants for satisfying that pre or post shopping appetite.

The average consumer, according to the National Retail Federation, spends about \$700 during the holiday season. Making all of your holiday purchases within the City can have a profound impact on our local economy and can help form a synergy to create new jobs locally and generate more economic growth within the community.

—continued on page 3

**Sidewalk Repair Program
starts in the new year.
See article on page 2.**



Pleasant Hill supports local business

The City of Pleasant Hill has made business a top priority by focusing efforts and funding to assist businesses with programs designed to increase their customer base and sales. The City's Retail Marketing Incentive Program provides matching grant funds to help businesses develop professional marketing strategies and then execute them.

Magoo's Grill, a long time fixture on Contra Costa Boulevard, is one establishment that has benefitted from the program. Magoo's began with a series of high impact full color mailings to local residents, with special offers to draw in new customers. "The results have been terrific" says owner Scott Davis. "We've had over a hundred new customers since we started this. It's a great example of how Pleasant Hill makes it easy to do business here."

Façade Improvement Program

Another economic incentive program that is available in the City is the Façade Improvement Grant and Loan Program providing matching grants to Pleasant Hill businesses to help them improve building facades that are visible from the public right of way. This program can assist with funding for

improvements like exterior façade upgrades, painting, installation of display windows, installation of new awnings, exterior signage and lighting and landscaping. "We are doing everything possible to provide financial incentives to businesses to help stimulate additional private investment in the city" says Kelly Calhoun, Economic Development Manager for Pleasant Hill.

If you would like more information or are interested in participating in these programs contact Kelly at 671-5213 or email at kcalhoun@ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us. ♣



Sidewalks that are next to your property that are raised, sunken, cracked, or broken may create a tripping hazard for pedestrians and interfere with public convenience in the use of the sidewalk. According to the Pleasant Hill Municipal Code and Section 5600 of the California Streets and Highway Code, **repair of sidewalks adjacent to the homeowner's property is the responsibility of the property owner.**

The City created the Sidewalk Repair Program in 2000 due to an increase in the number of tripping hazard claims received by the City. The program was designed to improve safety of sidewalk areas and minimize property owner and City liability for tripping accidents.

City divided up by Program Zones

The City's existing sidewalk repair program is divided into four zones.

- Zone 1 targets the areas around schools, senior citizen facilities, and heavily travelled areas.
- Zone 2 represents commercial areas and the oldest neighborhoods
- Zones 3 and 4 include progressively newer neighborhoods.

The program's intention is to target repairing one zone every few years.

Since the program was adopted by the City Council, the City has completed sidewalk repairs in all four zones. The **2013 Sidewalk Repair Project** will focus again on sidewalk repair in Zone 1, which consists of approximately 22 miles of sidewalks in residential and commercial areas. The City has recently notified all affected

residents/property owners in Zone 1 of the program and the inspection process is underway.

Options available to homeowners

After the sidewalk inspections are complete, property owners adjacent to sidewalks in disrepair will receive an additional letter outlining the options and steps for them to repair the sidewalk. **Property owners may repair sidewalk to City Standard under City permit by themselves, hire a contractor or pay for the repair costs using the City hired contractor.** Work is expected to begin in January 2014.

If you have not received a sidewalk inspection notification by the time you receive this edition of the Outlook, then your property is not located in Zone 1. If you would still, however, like the sidewalk next to your property to be inspected and repaired, using the City's contractor, you may be added to the project repair list. Please call the Sidewalk Repair Program information line at 671-5291 to request a sidewalk inspection and information on how to proceed with your sidewalk repair.

For any additional project information, please see the City website at www.pleasant-hill.net/sidewalk. ♣

Keep it local —continued from page 2

Let's take a look at the "Top Ten" reasons ways shopping locally can benefit the community.

1. **Protect local character and prosperity**—By choosing to shop at local businesses you can help maintain diversity of businesses and create and support local jobs.
2. **Community well-being**—Locally owned and operated businesses build strong neighborhoods by sustaining communities and contributing to more local causes.
3. **Local decision making**—Local ownership means that important decisions are made locally often by people who live in the community and feel the impacts of those decisions.
4. **Keeping dollars in the local economy**—Your dollars spent in local businesses have more impact on your community by creating and sustaining jobs, funding more city services through sales tax, and investing in neighborhood improvements.
5. **Jobs and eages**—Local businesses create jobs in the community.
6. **Entrepreneurship**—Supporting local entrepreneurs fuels America's economic innovation and prosperity.
7. **Environmental sustainability**—Local stores help to sustain vibrant, compact and walkable city centers which in turn are essential to reduced automobile use, and air and water pollution.
8. **Diversity**—A market place or city that has a variety of diversity of businesses is the best way to ensure innovation and stable prices over the long term and provide the community with a broader range of product offerings.
9. **Local food**—Local restaurants and stores are more likely to carry locally produced foods which supports local agriculture.
10. **Support local**—Local businesses support other local businesses.

If you are looking for shopping or dining resources during the Holiday season visit us on ShopPleasantHill.org and like us on Facebook at ShopPleasantHill. Please Dine, Shop, and especially Enjoy Pleasant Hill this holiday season! ♣



Recycling your household batteries and fluorescent bulb

Did you know that you can now recycle all of your household batteries and compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) on the same day as your garbage pickup? Just place the batteries in a quart-size ziploc bag, seal and leave next to your brown recycling cart. Do the same in a separate ziploc bag for CFLs. With this curbside service now provided by Republic Services, the batteries recycling container at City Hall will be removed and the service discontinued after November 15th.



Need a ride? No longer drive? Call the Pleasant Hill Senior Van!

Door to door service, for just \$1.50 each way, is available to Pleasant Hill residents aged 55 and older. This wonderful service will take residents anywhere within city limits and to some medical facilities in neighboring communities.

Appointments are available Monday through Thursday from 9:00am to noon, and 1:00pm to 4:00pm, and Fridays from 9:00am to noon. For program eligibility information, please call 671-5272.

Volunteers needed!

Want to get involved in the community, but only have a few hours per month to spare? Drivers and dispatchers (appointment setters) are needed to support the volunteer managed Pleasant Hill Senior Van program. Drivers are not required to have special licensing, and training will be provided. Dispatchers work in a slow paced office environment, answering phones and confirming appointments. Just 4 hours per month for either position will be a big help! For more information, call 671-5272. ♣



Police Explorer program seeks applications

Are you interested in a career in law enforcement? The Pleasant Hill Police Department is pleased to offer the Police Explorer program to interested youth ages 14-21 in the City of Pleasant Hill.

The program is ongoing and incorporates leadership skills, law enforcement training, and career guidance. Police Explorers receive training in the following areas:

- Police Procedure
- Vehicle Operations
- Crime Scene Investigation
- Arrest and Control
- C.P.R./ First Aid
- Laws of Arrest
- Firearms and Less-lethal Options
- K-9 Operations
- Public Event Assistance
- Scenarios and Demonstrations

Police Explorers are expected to attend monthly meetings at the Pleasant Hill and Martinez police departments, provide support at public events, and participate in

several off-site activities throughout the year.

Requirements

Explorer candidates must meet the following requirements:

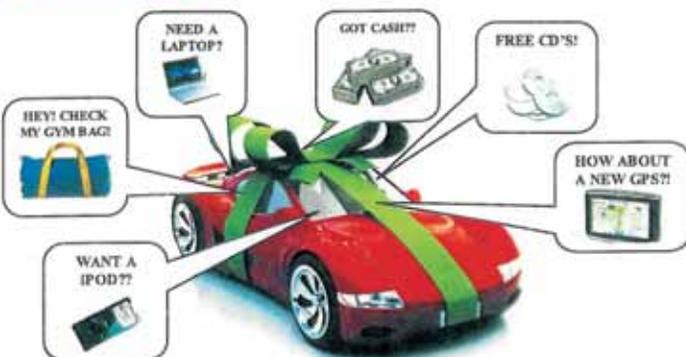
- 14 to 18 years of age to apply and remain until age 21
- Graduated the eighth grade
- Pass a background check to include a school attendance and academic review
- No criminal history
- Have and must maintain a 2.0 grade point average with no Fs
- Attend school regularly (if enrolled)
- Clear a fingerprints check through DOJ (Department of Justice)
- Possession of a driver license is encouraged, but not required. Space in the Explorer program is limited to 10 and interested candidates will be considered on a first come, first served basis



Note: The Explorer program is an unpaid program for volunteers interested in a career in law enforcement. Participants do not receive high school or college credit.

For more information or to obtain an APPLICATION please contact a Post Advisor or stop by PHPD at 330 Civic Dr, Pleasant Hill. Phone: 288-4630. Email: PDExplorers@ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us. ♣

Is your car attracting the **WRONG** kind of attention?



The Pleasant Hill Police Department wants to keep your car (and everything in it) safe from thieves.

Here are some tips on how to accomplish this:

- ✓ **Lock your doors and roll up your windows.** Even on a quick trip to the grocery store, lock it up! An unlocked car and an open window are an invitation to thieves to help themselves to your belongings.
- ✓ **Keep your valuables out of sight.** If you can't take your valuables with you, don't leave them lying in plain view. It takes 30 seconds for a thief to smash a window, but only 20 seconds to place your belongings safely out of sight.
- ✓ **Park in a safe area.** Most vehicle break-ins happen at night or in large parking lots or parking structures. Don't leave your car unattended in unfamiliar areas for long, especially at night.

As the Holidays approach, along with the celebrations comes shopping and very busy schedules. We tend to forget the basics about taking precautions against theft, burglaries and personal safety. Nothing can ruin the holiday spirit faster than becoming the victim of a crime. By taking a few simple precautions, you can reduce the risk to yourself and also discourage those who commit crime.

Hyatt House Pleasant Hill completes extensive renovation

All property suites and public areas transformed for extended stay guests, providing another option for holiday entertaining in Pleasant Hill.

Did you know that the HYATT House, located in the heart of Downtown Pleasant Hill, recently completed a multi-million dollar transformation to remodel the 142 suites? A new lobby and H BAR are now open to the public for business every day from 5-10pm.

“You don’t need to be an overnight guest at the hotel to enjoy the nightly Sip + Savor menu that includes sip worthy, premium cocktails, beers & wines along with delicious home-cooked comfort foods like gourmet Grilled Cheese Sandwiches, Chef-Crafted TV Dinners and a variety of snacks and small plates,” said Shawn Romeo, Hyatt House Sales Director.

If you are looking for a place to bring your out of town guests or meet up with friends during the holidays, check out the new H Bar at the Hyatt, which is located at 2611 Contra Costa Blvd in Downtown Pleasant Hill (across the street from the Crescent Drive parking garage). For information or to make a reservation, call 866-XS-HYATT (866-974-9288) or visit www.hyathouse.com.



Food Bank donations welcome

The HYATT House is also a drop off location for the Contra Costa & Solano Food Bank. The donation container is located in the hotel lobby. So if you are stopping by the H BAR after a day of Holiday shopping bring along a food donation to drop off and brighten the Holidays for others in the community. ♣

Senior Spectrum

Healthy aging

—the Pleasant Hill Commission on Aging

What you do transforms you. You become that which you frequently do. To the extent that you do what is healthy, **you become healthy**. To the extent that you do what is unhealthy, **you become unhealthy**.

Considerable scientific evidence indicates that the leading cause of chronic disease, premature aging and the early onset of senility is physical inactivity and poor diet. Being sedentary is unhealthy and accelerates physical decline. Being physically active is healthy and accelerates physical renewal and healthy aging. Exercise contributes to mental acuity and slows the onset of dementia. In short, you become what you prioritize: An aversion to exertion accelerates physical and mental decline. Excessive TV watching contributes greatly to the development and progression of chronic disease. So what is excessive TV watching?

Dr. Lennert Veerman of the University of Queensland, in his study published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, suggests that watching too much TV is as detrimental to longevity as smoking and lack of exercise and that “every hour of TV that participants watched after age 25 was associated with a 22-minute reduction in their life expectancy.”

Scientists believe that consistent physical inactivity initiates aberrant gene expression actually causing chronic disease and the acceleration of self extinction.

On the other hand, the factors contributing to healthy aging are simply ways in which we choose to live in accordance with the natural laws governing human health. Some of these are:

- Remain physically active
- Walk briskly and often
- Eat a healthy diet
- Continue lifelong learning
- Remain socially active
- Engage your interests
- Pursue your passions and hobbies
- Volunteer in meaningful causes
- Be kind to others
- Try new things
- Use your mind—exercise it regularly
- Never stop learning
- Challenge yourself
- Join the Senior Center, Toast Masters, YMCA, etc.
- Hug your pet. Walk a dog. Go for a swim
- Grow a garden. Plant flowers
- Brighten someone’s day

Genetics is both your strong ally and powerful opponent. Regular exercise triggers powerful genetic forces of self renewal whereas consistent physical inactivity triggers powerful genetic forces that accelerate physical decline. Genetics simply amplify the wisdom or folly of your behavioral choices.

The Pleasant Hill Senior Center and the YMCA in Pleasant Hill both offer “senior friendly” exercise classes and are two great places for seniors to get involved and get healthy. Movement truly is the best medicine for staying young. ♣



Celebrate the Holidays at Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District Venues

Planning a holiday party? Pleasant Hill Rec has the perfect venue for your next holiday celebration with family, friends and/or co-workers. For your next event, contact Ryan Herriman, Facilities Coordinator at 798-8788 Ext. 689 or email him at rherriman@pleasanthillrec.com to reserve your space.



Senior Center



Teen Center

Information on the new Community Center Grand Opening in January 2014 is coming soon! For Community Center bond construction updates, visit www.pleasanthillrec.com.
Donate to Capital Campaign Fund!
Call 882-0896 to offer your support.



Teens/Youth/Tot Activities

■ Get a jump on the competition with Winter Swim Clinics

High School Pre-Season Clinic (Grade 9-12) and Winter Swim Clinic (Grade 8 & under) are now open for registration. Register online at pleasanthillrec.com or call 682-0896.

■ Add a little music to your child's life with Beginner Music Classes Available in November/December

The Village Music School offers a wide variety of music programs for children age 4-13 years. Register online at pleasanthillrec.com or call PH Recreation office 682-0896

■ Get your Holiday shopping done with Tiny Tot Morning Care

Let the caring staff at Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District watch your children (walking – 36 months) while you run holiday errands or simply give yourself some time off. Your tot will enjoy indoor games, story time, snack-time and outdoor playground time with their friends. Snack provided. Pre-registration required. Call 682-0896. \$25/day per child.



38th Annual Turkey Trot (8.4K Run) at Briones Regional Park

Enter the annual race at Briones Regional Park on November 24 and win a turkey! Pre-register by November 20th and receive a free t-shirt! Go to www.pleasanthillrec.com or call 682-0896.



New Year's Eve Celebration

- Featuring live music by Cover2Cover
- 233 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill
- Doors open at 7:00pm (VIP only) and 9:00pm (party only)

All tickets include live music and dancing, photo booth, party favors, Balloon drop and a champagne toast at Midnight. VIP Tickets include early arrival (7:00pm), Prime Rib/Chicken dinner and VIP seating. Tickets available for purchase November 1st. VIP Tickets: \$85 and Party Tickets: \$50. Space is limited. Contact PHRec office at 682-0896 to buy tickets now. See ad on page 13.

Senior Center events and activities

DISCOUNTED SENIOR CLUB MEMBERSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE

Come see why over 3,000 others seniors are now members of the Pleasant Hill Senior Club. Purchase a year-end membership for only \$5, valid through December 31, 2013. To join, contact the Pleasant Hill Senior Center at 798-8788.

■ Food Drive for Contra Costa Food Bank

Collection containers will be in the lobby of the Senior Center at 233 Gregory Lane. We accept nonperishable and unopened food (no glass or expired items). Most needed items include: peanut butter, whole grain cereals, hearty soups, beans/lentils (dry or canned), canned tuna/chicken, canned fruit in juice, canned vegetables in water, brown rice, whole wheat pasta, canned tomatoes.

- ❑ November 1–December 20
- ❑ PH Senior Center

■ Pleasant Hill Police present “Safety for Seniors” (FREE)

The Pleasant Hill Police officers will discuss ways to avoid financial scams and opportunities that appear valid but later prove to be scams. They will also discuss senior safety and crime prevention at home and away. Call Pleasant Hill Senior Center 798-8788 to reserve your spot.

- ❑ November 15, 1:00pm
- ❑ PH Senior Center , Chateau Room

■ Holiday Boutique (FREE)

Get an early start on your holiday shopping! Visit our Holiday Boutique and choose from a huge selection of quality handmade items at affordable prices. Baby items, quilts, scarves, jewelry and much more.

- ❑ November 23, 9:00am–3:00pm
- ❑ PH Senior Center

■ Soup’s on at the PH Senior Center

October brings cold, rainy days and the Pleasant Hill Senior Center has a great way to beat the chill. Chef’s Lunch offers a “Soup & Savory” menu on Fridays through March 2014. For \$5, hot soup is paired with a hot sandwich or another menu item. No reservations required. Just drop in!

- ❑ October 4-March 31,
11:30am–12:30pm
- ❑ PH Senior Center



Helping the community....

Pleasant Hill Lions’ update

On September 28, 2013, the Lions provided complimentary breakfast for over 550 hard working volunteers for the City of Pleasant Hill Community Service Day. Breakfast included pancakes, sausages, fruit, milk, and orange juice. Food was donated by Don and Norma Flaskerud.



Also in September, the Lions Club helped at the Yosemite “Rim” fire. Club member, Rich Henne, helped the Sonora Lions Club feed evacuees and firefighters, providing meals for approximately 2 weeks, and Lions Clubs International sent \$10,000 to the Sonora Lions Club.

Peace Poster Contest

Pleasant Hill Lions is sponsoring a “Peace Poster Contest”, which is a Lions National Contest open to all middle school children in the United States. The contest involves drawing a poster symbolizing and promoting the concept of peace. The national winner will have their poster mounted in the United Nations for one year. For more information, please contact the club’s chairperson, Sherry Sterrett at 687-2888 or sherrysterrett@att.net.

Lions at the Rose Parade

Lions Club International has a float every year at the Rose Parade. On January 1, 2014 the Lions’ theme for the float will be based upon a park for special needs children that the Lions built in Concord called Mateo’s Dream. The park was built about 5 years ago by Lions of Contra Costa and Alameda counties, and many Pleasant Hill Lions worked on the project. Mateo was a child with special needs and sadly passed away 2 years after the park was completed, but his memory will be honored by this float and the children who enjoy the park today. Look for the float in the parade.

If you have any interest in learning about or are considering joining the Pleasant Hill Lions Club, please call Ken Wombacher at 687-0858.

Green Business Program certifies Pleasant Hill businesses

Congratulations to Matt Rinn, State Farm Agent, and the Verizon Wireless store in Pleasant Hill on being recently certified as a Green Business through the Contra Costa Green Business Program.

According to Rinn, it was a lot of small changes, like purchasing recycled content paper, printing double sided, powering down computers at night, and using reusable water bottles that earned him certification. "It's a lot of little things that add up to make a big difference." Rinn also worked with his property manager to install energy efficient lighting.



Anne Baker (right) presented a green business certificate to Matt Rinn of State Farm (second from left).

"Now more than ever, it's a big priority for businesses to be environmentally responsible," Yih-Chau Chang, district manager for Verizon Wireless stores said. "We need to take the lead to show people we are trying hard to earn their business."



Yih-Chau Chang, district manager, and Claudia Pingatore, Green Business Coordinator at Verizon Wireless.

According to Claudia Pingatore, coordinator for the Green Business Program, the Verizon store, located at 622 Contra Costa Blvd. in Pleasant Hill, is the only green certified cell phone store in the county. "They were already doing a good job with many things, so for them it was pretty easy."

Among their notable green accomplishments, the Verizon store refurbishes old cell phones. Chang is also eager to have his other locations green certified, starting with the Brentwood location.

The Green Business Program is a free, county-run program. Businesses must comply with environmental regulations and pass additional audits in the areas of energy and water conservation, waste reduction and recycling, and pollution prevention.

For more information, please contact Claudia Pingatore at 335-3220 or Claudia.Pingatore@hsd.cccounty.us or visit <http://www.greenbiz.ca.gov/>. ♣

Backyard Composting Workshop at City Hall



The City of Pleasant Hill is hosting Free backyard composting workshops and offering residents high-quality compost bins for \$40 (retail \$129) for those who attend a workshop. Composting your yard trimmings and food scraps is easy, great for your yard and garden, kind to our environment and good for you too! Save money, save water, and conserve natural resources. Find out how to attend a free workshop—register now by calling Annette Kaufmann at 925-671-5265 or go to www.pleasant-hill.net/compost.



The workshops are one hour in duration. The next workshop will be held **Tuesday, November 19**. All workshops are from 7pm to 8pm in the large Community Room at City Hall.

Sign up at www.pleasant-hill.net/compost. ♣

Career Night coming to College Park High School

Please encourage your high-schooler to mark his or her calendar for **Wed, November 20 at 6:30pm** when the Pleasant Hill Education Initiative will host a special career night focused on careers in engineering, manufacturing, architecture and construction.

Industry professionals will discuss the training and education necessary for jobs in these fields—from middle-skill jobs that require some post-secondary training and certificates, to higher-skilled jobs that require a 4-year degree or beyond.

With an eye on which occupations in these fields are growing most rapidly in our region, students will hear from industry experts about how they carved their own path to success, and what types of classes and work-based experiences, like internships, students should engage in now to better prepare for college and career opportunities. ♣

PH Library activities...

➤ Fratello Marionettes

Tuesday, November 5, 6:30pm

Master puppeteers return with some of their largest marionettes to perform a traditional European vaudeville show.



➤ Affordable Care Act Info Session at the Senior Center

Tuesday, November 19, 1:00pm

Learn more about your insurance options with the Affordable Care Act. Covered California (coveredca.com) will present on this important health insurance topic. This event will be at the Pleasant Hill Senior Center.

➤ Gingerbread City!

Tuesday, December 10, 6:30pm

Team up with other families to create an epic Gingerbread City in the library! We've got the sweet supplies, but participants may bring their own candy as well. No registration required.



➤ Volunteer Literacy Tutor Training—help an adult learn to read!

Registration starts December 11th

Training on January 22 and 25 and February 1. All 3 sessions are required. No previous teaching experience is required. More info: www.ccclib.org/psc or call 925-927-3250.

➤ Lego Creators Club (with Robots!)

Every Saturday, 2:00pm

Make anything you can imagine with our huge collection of Legos! Plus new challenges and tips every meeting. This season, explore the programmable universe of Lego Mindstorms with the library's new EV3 robotics kits!

➤ One-on-One Computer Tutor

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays

Tutors assist with setting up email, Microsoft Word, basic Internet searches, printing and saving, and also with digital gadgets like laptops, smart phones, eReaders, and cameras. Please call or make an online reservation at www.ccclib.org.

➤ English Conversation Practice for Adults

Every Wednesday, 1:30–2:30pm

Practice speaking and listening to English in a casual ESL conversation group run by library staff. Drop-ins welcome.

➤ Wii Wednesdays for Teens

Every 1st Wednesday of the month, 3:00–4:30pm

Come have fun and meet other teens at the Library while getting your game on!

Pleasant Hill Library Meeting Room

Available during library open hours. Details on how to reserve the room, the meeting room application, and usage policy can be found on our Website at www.ccclib.org.



Just for teens

➤ Teen Chess & Board Games

Every Friday, 3:00-5:00pm

Gather for friendly chess matches or raucous Apples to Apples tournaments! The Library has a variety of board games such as checkers, Connect Four, Pictionary, Candyland, Scrabble, and Battleship.

➤ Teen Advisory Group

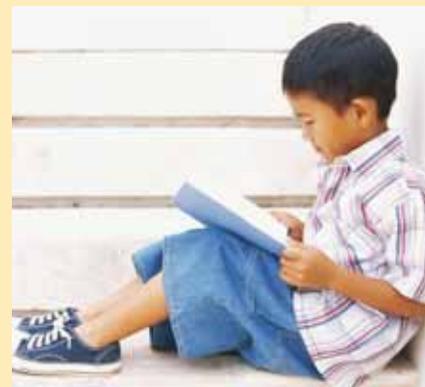
Every second Wednesday 3:30-5:00pm

Meet with other community teens and the young adult librarian to share and plan what you want to see happen at the library.

Storytimes

Every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 11:15am, plus Friday afternoons, 1:15pm

Introduce your child to the wonderful world of words at any of our fun and musical storytimes!



Please check the library's Website for additional information and details on all events at www.ccclib.org/locations/pleasanthill.html



President JF Kennedy Commemoration

- **Friday, November 22, 10:00–11:00am**
- JFK University, Pleasant Hill Campus, 100 Ellinwood Way



As John F. Kennedy University prepares to celebrate its 50th Anniversary, the University will pause on Friday, November 22, from 10–11am to remember President Kennedy.

Local officials and others will be joining the University at the Pleasant Hill campus on this day that marks 50 years from his assassination. The event will include a moment of silence at 10:30am and remarks by local officials and readings by faculty. The community is invited to attend and participate in this event.

During the week leading up to the event, display cases on the campus will recount John F. Kennedy's life in photos and documents.

Transfer scholarships available

Individuals who are attending or who attended in the past year Diablo Valley College, Los Medanos College, or any

other community college are eligible for a transfer scholarship of up to \$2,000. JFK University has set aside \$40,000 for transfer scholarships this year to assist students looking to complete their degree.

JFK University offers small class sizes as well as personalized attention, with an academic advisor assigned to each student. In addition, students looking to continue on to a graduate degree may be able to link to the program, allowing them to take graduate courses while still an undergraduate that apply to both degrees. This feature is unique to JFK University, saving students time and money.

The University is accepting applications for both winter and spring quarters, which begin in January and April. Individuals can call 800.696.5358 or stop by the campus to get started. ♣

Celebrate Joy of Remembrance at Tree of Lights

The Pleasant Hill Chamber and Hospice of the East Bay invite everyone to attend the annual Tree of Lights on Thursday, November 21 at 5:30pm at Gregory Lane and Cleaveland Road.

The ceremony will be dedicated to former Pleasant Hill Police Officer, Robert Eugene Lauderdale, who passed away earlier this year. A reception will

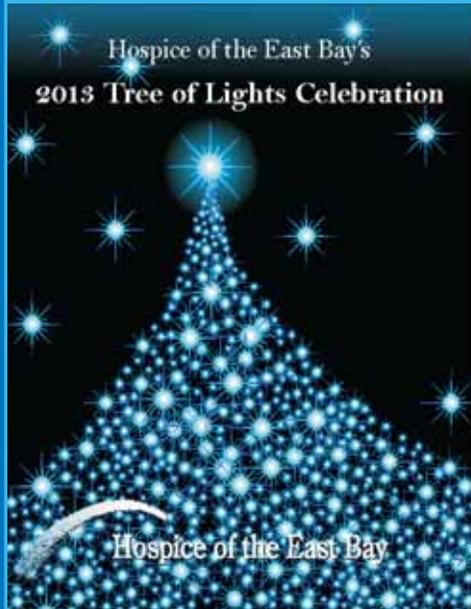
follow immediately at the Pleasant Hill Teen Center located at 147 Gregory Lane.

The ceremony includes music, reading of the memorial names, refreshments, and the magical moment when the tree is lit—rain or shine!

Since 1990 friends and relatives have gathered at this magnificent oak tree to remember those who have died and to



Motorcycle Officer Bob Lauderdale



Hospice of the East Bay's
2013 Tree of Lights Celebration

Hospice of the East Bay

Celebrate the Joy of Remembrance!

City of Pleasant Hill Tree of Lights!
Thursday, November 21, 5:30pm
Gregory Lane near Cleaveland Rd
Reception to follow

In honor of
**Pleasant Hill Police Officer
Robert Eugene Lauderdale**

Dedicate a Light!
Call (925) 887-5678
or visit www.PHHospiceTree.com





dedicate memorial lights in their names. For 27 years, Hospice of the East Bay has raised funds at all eleven trees throughout Contra Costa to offer end-of-life comfort care for everyone in the community regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay.

How to dedicate a tree light

Lights can be dedicated for a minimum gift of \$25. Doors of \$100 or more have the option of having their name listed in the tree lighting program, and tax-deductible tree sponsorships range from \$250 to \$10,000. For light purchases, donations, sponsorships, and event questions, please call 887-5678, visit www.PHHospiceTree.com or visit Hospice of the East Bay's website: www.HospiceEastBay.org. ♣



Enjoy your holiday shopping!

Mt. Diablo Adult Education's Annual Open House and Art & Crafts Sale

Are you looking for that perfect holiday gift for someone special? Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 7, 9:30am–3:30pm. Because you won't want to miss the Annual Open House and Art & Crafts Sale at the Pleasant Hill Education Center, One Santa Barbara Road in Pleasant Hill. Adult students will present over 1,000 original works of art and crafts using skills acquired in Adult Education classes! The sale will feature hand-crafted items including: wooden toys, unique jewelry, handmade greeting cards, original paintings, quilted and knit items, weavings, woodcarvings, wood turned objects, and more.

Do you have someone on your gift list that is difficult to shop for? Consider a gift certificate for class tuition.

Coordinator Judith Sosnowski invites you enjoy the Crafts Sale, visit open classrooms, meet the instructors and watch students at work. New and returning students may take advantage of the pre pre-registration opportunity to register for winter classes. Enter a chance to win a \$25 tuition credit for a class of your choice.

Please phone 937-1530 for additional information.



Pack 405 goes Scouting for food and toys!

Sequoia Elementary in Pleasant Hill has a very active Cub Scout pack, Pack 405. Throughout the school year and even summer, these cub scouts keep busy by doing fun outings, hikes and service projects. Some of these items include selling popcorn to the public, field trips, parades, hiking to various local locations, and the ever famous...Pinewood Derby.

One of Scouting's foundational principles is "doing a good turn daily." Scouts at all levels of the program participate in good turns and service projects. One of the most important service projects is coming up, called **Scouting For Food**. It's been a project of the BSA for decades. Scouts go out on one weekend (November 9, 2013), place hangers on the doors of their neighbors, and come back later (November 16, 2013) to pick up the food and take it to a local food bank.

We ask that if you are willing to help, you place your canned food donation by your mailbox. The cub scouts will come back by to pick up the items.

In addition, in December, the cub scouts will participate in the **Toys for Tots** holiday drive. Each of the children will get to bring in a toy for a needy child in the community. Please consider giving to this worthy charity during the holiday season wherever you see their donation barrels. ♣



Breakfast with Santa

Santa is taking time out of his busy schedule to join you and your family for a morning of holiday cheer, breakfast, and live entertainment. Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, and more. Two different seating times are available—8:30am and 10:15am at the PH Senior Center Chateau Room. Don't forget your camera for pictures with Santa! Must pre-register by December 10. **Saturday, December 14.** Admission: \$8.50 / \$7.50 (District Resident)



Santa visits your home

► December 22 and 23, Sunday and Monday

Ho! Ho! Ho! Reserve your time for Santa to visit your home!
Call PH Rec District office at 682-0896.

Holiday Bingo Bash

- Saturday, December 14.
Doors open at 4pm.
- Pleasant Hill Senior Center:
Chateau Room

Tickets are \$14 and includes a plated dinner and guarantees \$100 pots for all games. Paper packs are sold separately. Tickets may be purchased at bingo or at the Senior Center front desk during office hours.





..drama...

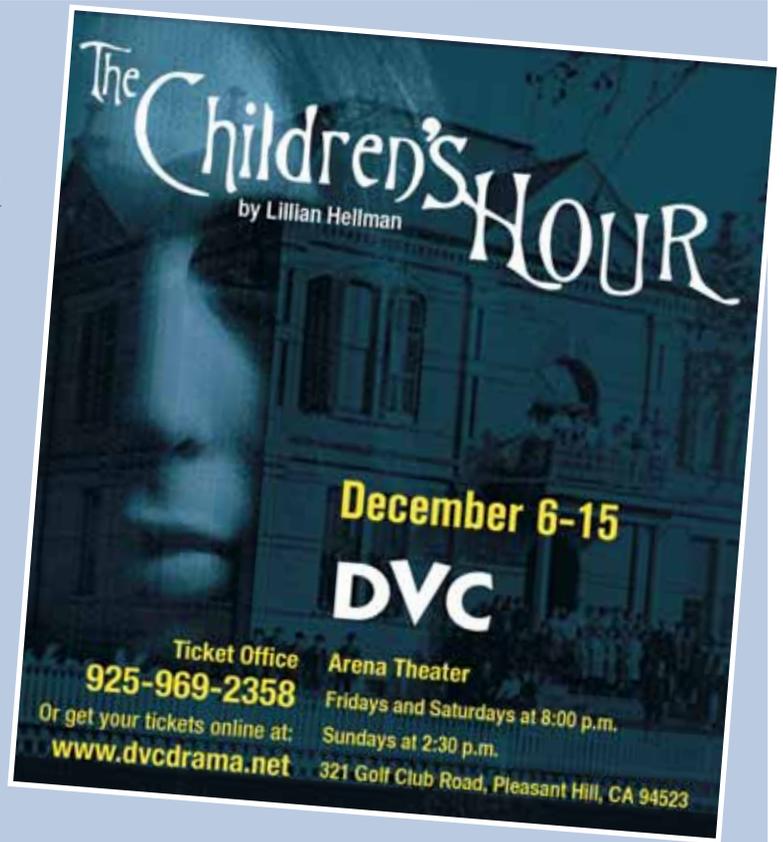
DVC drama presents the Lillian Hellman classic— “The Children’s Hour”

“The Children’s Hour can still move audiences with its righteous indignation and its powerful indictment of irresponsible actions.” —Backstage.com

Set in the 1930s, *The Children’s Hour* centers around two women, Karen Wright and Martha Dobie, who run a boarding school for girls. A malicious youngster out for revenge starts a rumor about the two women which quickly turns to scandal. Understanding the power she wields, the young girl sticks by her story which results in tragedy for the women. It is later discovered that the gossip was pure invention, but is it too late to reverse the damage that has been done?

The Children’s Hour is directed by Stephanie Carson and runs December 6-15. Show times are Friday and Saturday at 8:00pm, Sunday at 2:30pm. For tickets, call 969-2358 or go to our website at www.dvcdrama.net.

DVC Drama is located at 321 Golf Club Rd, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 with free parking for all performances. ♣



Arsenic and Old Lace at College Park High School

Come see another amazing production by the brilliant thespians of College Park High School as they perform the classic comedy *Arsenic and Old Lace* by Joseph Kesselring!



This play features Dean Engle as Mortimer Brewster, Emily Dow as Aunt Abby, Dakota Bragato as Aunt Martha, Becca Kefer as Elaine Harper, David Dean as Jonathan Brewster, and Caz Aquino as Dr. Einstien.

The Brewster sisters, Abby and Martha, are the kindest and most generous old ladies in Brooklyn. Their father left them set for life and there isn’t a charity they haven’t donated to. They dote on their nephew, Mortimer, a reluctant drama critic, who’s just become engaged to Elaine, the adorable girl next door. They all think they have the perfect life until a ghastly secret is revealed and they receive a rather unwelcome visitor. Is this night like every other? I think not.

The play will be performed at College Park High School, 201 Viking Drive, Pleasant Hill. Performance dates are November 7 and 8 at 7pm, November 13 at 4pm, and November 14, 15, and 16 at 7pm. Tickets are \$5 for students, \$7 for senior citizens and \$10 general admission. Buy tickets on line at <http://intouch.mdusd.org> and at the door. ♣

...and parties!



PLEASANT HILL RECREATION & PARK DISTRICT
NEW YEAR'S EVE
Celebration
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2013
 Featuring Live Music By: *Cover2Cover*

VIP TICKET	PARTY TICKET
INCLUDES: PRIME RIB & CHICKEN DINNER BUFFET VIP SEATING PARTY ENTRY LIVE MUSIC & DANCING PHOTO BOOTH PARTY FAVORS BALLOON DROP CHAMPAGNE TOAST AT MIDNIGHT	INCLUDES: PARTY ENTRY LIVE MUSIC & DANCING PHOTO BOOTH PARTY FAVORS BALLOON DROP CHAMPAGNE TOAST AT MIDNIGHT
\$85 PER PERSON DOORS OPEN AT 7:00 P.M. DINNER BEGINS AT 7:30 P.M.	\$50 PER PERSON DOORS OPEN AT 9:00 P.M.

SPACE IS LIMITED : TICKETS AVAILABLE NOVEMBER 1
 PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE AT PLEASANTHILLREC.COM

233 GREGORY LANE, PLEASANT HILL | (925) 682-0896

**6TH ANNUAL
 TEXAS HOLD'EM
 POKER CHALLENGE**
 Presented by Pleasant Hill Police Officer's Association

benefiting **Special Olympics**
 Northern California

Saturday November 23rd, 2013
 Back Forty | 100 Coggins Drive
 Texas BBQ | Pleasant Hill, CA
 Doors open at 5 p.m., Poker begins at 6 p.m.

Register today at
www.TexasHoldemSO.org

Enjoy a fun evening playing poker and raising money for Special Olympics. Admission includes delicious appetizers, Full service cash bar, Auction and a Large prize pool for poker players! **GO ALL-IN for Special Olympics!**

For more information, please contact: Gary Brown
 at (925) 288-4634 or gbrown@ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us
 or Tom Mueller at (925) 288-4605



Our rockin' community! Events for November and December 2013...

Date	Event	Location	Organization	Contact
Nov 5	Fratello Marionettes	PH Library	PH Library	646-5234
Nov 7,8	Arsenic and Old Lace	College Park High School	CPHS Drama	www.intouch.mdusd.org
Nov 9, 16	Scouting for Food	All over town	Cub Scout Pack 405	
Nov 13-16	Arsenic and Old Lace	College Park High School	CPHS Drama	www.intouch.mdusd.org
Nov 19	Affordable Care Act Info	PH Library	PH Library	646-5234
Nov 19	Composting Workshop	Pleasant Hill City Hall	Pleasant Hill City	671-5265
Nov 20	Career Night	College Park High School	PH Education Commission	671-5229
Nov 21	Hospice Tree of Lights	PH Park	PH Chamber, Hospice of East Bay	887-5678
Nov 22	JFK Commemoration	JFK University	JFK University	696-5358
Nov 23	Holiday Boutique	PH Senior Center	PH Senior Center	798-8788
Nov 23	Texas Hold'em Poker Challenge	Back Forty Texas BBQ	Pleasant Hill Police Association	288-4634, 288-4605
Nov 24	Turkey Trot	Briones Regional Park	PH Rec & Park District	682-0896
Nov 15	Safety for Seniors	PH Senior Center	PH Police Dept, Senior Center	798-8788
Nov 5	Gingerbread City	PH Library	PH Library	646-5234
Dec 4	Light Up the Night	Downtown Pleasant Hill	Pleasant Hill City, Downtown PH, PHR&PD	671-5229
Dec 6-15	The Children's Hour	Diablo Valley College	DVC Drama	969-2358
Dec 7	MDAE Arts & Crafts Sale	PH Education Center	Mt. Diablo Adult Education	937-1530
Dec 14	Breakfast with Santa	PH Senior Center	PH Rec & Park District	682-0896
Dec 14	Holiday Bingo Bash	PH Senior Center	PH Rec & Park District	682-0896
Dec 22,23	Santa Visits Your Home	Your home!	PH Rec & Park District	682-0896
Dec 31	New Year's Eve Celebration	PH Senior Center	PH Rec & Park District	682-0896

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 or Kcalhoun@ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us.



**New businesses
August 2013**

Ashley Castner

(Waxing Services)
101 Gregory Ln., #42
209-303-9098

Clarifylife, LLC

(Online Consulting/
Personal Growth)
3478 Buskirk Ave
925-482-6773

Elena V. Mena (Hair Stylist)

65 Crescent Dr., "B"
925-689-2868

Got Watts Electric

(Contractor)
2495 Estand Way
925-421-0411

Pollo Pollo (Restaurant)

508 N Contra Costa Blvd.
510-908-1285

Rasputin Records, Inc.

1025 Contra Costa Boulevard
925-827-2900

Sergio's Chicago Style Hotdogs

3260 Buskirk Ave.
925-597-1949

The Waxing Studio

101 Gregory Lane, #42
925-876-9364

Thomas Kano, Jr., D.C.

(Chiropractic Health Services)
609 Gregory Lane, #220
925-979-5577

**Academy Mortgage
Corporation**

602-377-1979

Bee Happy Jumpies Bounce

House (Bounce House Rent-
als/Party Supplies)
888-289-9002

Dee's Housekeeping

925-768-0774

Elise Morris (Artist)

510-332-1850

Emmy Dee's Quickbooks

Solution (Accounting Services)
510-755-2509

Nonna's Naturals

(Cottage Foods – Cakes)
925-476-5123

Power of You, LLC

(Market Research)
925-478-5670

Simply Events (Event Planning)

408-412-1869

SOS Studios (Home Office

for Audio Engineering Studio)
925-785-2456

**New businesses
September 2013**

Beauty By Alexis (Hair Stylist)

1609 Oak Park Blvd.
925-565-7555

Better Homes Realty

Sheri Fernandez
2800 Pleasant Hill Road, #285
925-595-8783

GT Sports Auto

(Auto Sales Retail)
191 Mayhew Way
408-568-4638



Lavish (Esthetician)

70 Doray Drive, #20
925-451-4959

Mirage Nails

607 Gregory Lane, #130
925-256-9998

Nordstrom Rack

703 Contra Costa Blvd.
206-233-6216

Q-Nails (Nail Salon)

508 Contra Costa Blvd.
925-798-0606

Time to renew business licenses

It's nearly time for business owners in Pleasant Hill to be on the lookout for business license renewal notices. The notices will be mailed in mid-December to the mailing address on file. If your business mailing address has changed since last December, notify the City's Business License Division at 671-5234 as soon as possible to update your records and avoid having to re-send returned mail to you. This will allow business owners the full grace period ending January 31, 2014.

You should also notify the Business License Division if you are no longer in business, have sold, closed or moved out of the City. Send a brief note explaining the situation, signed and dated, and to City of Pleasant Hill, Business License Division, 100 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 or email to Lrodriguez@ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us.

If you are in business or own rental property but are not yet licensed, call the City's Business License Division at 671-5234 to have the appropriate forms sent to you or to answer any of your questions. ♣

NOVEMBER

City Meetings

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
Mon 4 7:30pm	City Council	Council Chambers
Wed 6 9:00am	Commission on Aging	City Hall Small Community Room
Wed 6 6:30pm	Civic Action Commission	City Hall Small Community Room
Thu 7 5:00pm	Architectural Review Commission	City Hall Community Room
Mon 11	City Hall closed for Veteran's Day Holiday	
Tue 12 6:00pm	Traffic Safety Commission	City Hall Community Room
Tue 12 7:30pm	Planning Commission	Council Chambers
Thu 14 5:00pm	Zoning Administrator	Planning/Public Works Conference Room
Mon 18 7:30pm	City Council	Council Chambers
Thu 21 5:00pm	Architectural Review Commission	City Hall Community Room
Thu 21 5:00pm	Zoning Administrator	Planning/Public Works Conference Room
Tue 26 7:30pm	Planning Commission	Council Chambers
Wed 27 7:00pm	Education Commission	City Hall Community Room
Thu 28-29	City Hall closed for Thanksgiving Holiday	

DECEMBER

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
Mon 2 7:30pm	City Council	Council Chambers
Wed 4 9:00am	Commission on Aging	City Hall Small Community Room
Wed 4 6:30pm	Civic Action Commission	City Hall Small Community Room
Thu 5 5:00pm	Architectural Review Commission	City Hall Community Room
Tue 10 6:00pm	Traffic Safety Commission	City Hall Community Room
Tue 10 7:30pm	Planning Commission	Council Chambers
Thu 12 5:00pm	Zoning Administrator	Planning/Public Works Conference Room
Mon 16 7:30pm	City Council	Council Chambers
Thu 19 5:00pm	Architectural Review Commission	City Hall Community Room
Tue 24	City Hall closed for Christmas Eve Holiday	
Wed 25	City Hall closed for Christmas Holiday	



CITY OF PLEASANT HILL

100 Gregory Lane
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523-3323
925-671-5270
www.pleasant-hill.net

CITY OFFICIALS

Mayor Michael G. Harris
Vice Mayor Jack Weir

Councilmembers

Ken Carlson • David Durant
Tim Flaherty

City Manager June Catalano
City Clerk Kimberly Lehmkuhl
City Treasurer Mark W. Celio

City Council meetings are broadcast on Comcast channel 28, U-Verse Channel 99, and Astound Channel 29 on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7:30pm.

Videos of meetings are also available on the City website under "Media Center."

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 articles for Jan/Feb is December 6. 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) 941-3300
Public Services Center 671-4646
Chamber of Commerce 687-0700
Recreation & Parks 682-0896
Trash and recycling 685-4711
PG&E 800-743-5000
Senior Center 798-8788
Senior Van Service 671-5272
Library 646-6434



City of Pleasant Hill
100 Gregory Lane
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523-3323
www.pleasant-hill.net



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THANK YOU, PLEASANT HILL!

You Made the Difference once again during Community Service Day

More than 1,000 volunteers participated in the 9th Annual Community Service Day on Saturday, September 28.

A special thank you goes to the Lions Club for breakfast at the park, Republic Services for donating bottled water, Premier Nutrition for the snack bars, Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay for their help in repairing more than 70 bikes for needy kids, and the Contra Costa Times and KKDV 92.1 for their generous promotion of the event. Special thanks also to the volunteers from Oak Park Church who worked on many of the 33 projects across the city, and the Girl Scouts who helped to collect 2,752lbs of food for the Contra Costa Food Bank.

For the first time this year, the Civic Action Commission organized eight projects at the homes of senior residents. Sheila Cotruvo, Andrew Pierce, Steve Oldenbourg, and Patty O'Malley led a dedicated group of volunteers to do landscaping and yard work for these elderly residents, who were very grateful for the assistance.

There are too many schools, church groups, businesses and organizations, and names of individuals to list everyone, but we thank you all for your dedication, hard work and commitment to giving back to your community.

You all 'Made a Difference' on September 28th and the Civic Action Commission looks forward to seeing you again next year at the 10th Annual Community Service Day. ♣





UPDATE from the City of Pleasant Hill about Flood Insurance, Property Protection, and dealing with flooding issues this winter

Flooding Information for property owners

If you have flood insurance...PLEASE READ THIS VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR POLICY!

New Federal Regulations: Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012

In July 2012, Congress passed the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 which required FEMA to make changes to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Some of these took effect starting in January 2013, while others will be implemented over time. Most importantly, this federal legislation requires the NFIP to raise flood insurance rates to reflect true flood risk and to make the NFIP more financially stable.

The federal NFIP requires property owners with a federally backed mortgage to purchase flood insurance on their buildings

located in the flood zone. For homes not in the flood zone, flood insurance is not required, but is available as an option to all property owners.

Most property owners in Pleasant Hill who currently have flood insurance were grandfathered into a low, discounted rate because they purchased flood insurance prior to the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) update in 2003. New property owners who purchased their property and flood insurance after 2003, currently pay a standard rate (which reflects their true flood risk).

How does the Federal Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 affect property owners in Pleasant Hill?

Scenario 1: Your discounted rate will not change

The new federal law states that if you have a discounted (grandfathered) flood policy on your primary residence in a flood zone, then you can keep the discounted rate until:

- the property is sold (the policy is no longer transferable)
- the policy lapses due to lack of payment
- you suffer repeated flood losses
- you purchase a new policy because:
 - you choose another insurance carrier
 - you acquire a home equity line of credit
 - you acquire a new mortgage or loan

Please be aware that insurance rates are subject to annual rate increases based on a variety of factors (i.e., cost of living).

Scenario 2: Your discounted rate will be subject to an annual increase of 25%

If you have a discounted flood policy on:

- a non-primary residence (rental, or any property you occupy less than 80% of the calendar year)
- a property that has experienced severe or repeated flood losses
- a business or non-residential or commercial property...
...then you will see 25% annual increase when your policy is renewed annually until the rate meets the new standard insurance rate.



If you are required to purchase a new policy at the standard rate, you will also be required to provide an Elevation Certificate (EC) to the insurance company, which they will use to calculate the new standard rate. In order to obtain an EC, you will need to hire a CA licensed surveyor to determine your property's elevation in relation to the flood elevation. This rate revision program took effect on October 1, 2013.

For questions on how the new federal law affects your property, visit
www.fema.gov/flood-insurance-reform-act-2012
or contact the City's
Floodplain Manager at (925) 671-5261.

Information about flooding and services available in the City



Flooding during the winter can occur in some parts of Pleasant Hill. Here is a roundup of information that residents may need in the event of flooding.

How to report a flooding problem

To report a flooding problem in your neighborhood, contact the City Maintenance Division simply by calling (925) 671-4646 weekdays during regular business hours. If it is an emergency, please contact the Police Department at 911.



Special flood hazard areas

Certain areas have been designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs). There are currently approximately 700 homes within these flood zones. SFHAs are areas within the 100-year flood boundary as mapped by FEMA. A “100-year flood” refers to a flood level with 1 percent or greater chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.

There is a 26% chance that a structure located in a SFHA will be inundated by a 100-year flood during the life of a 30-year mortgage. In comparison, the risk of fire is approximately 5% in the same time period. Smaller floods have a greater chance of occurring in any given year and can still create a significant hazard to life and property.



Local flood hazard

Flooding in our City is generally caused by the following: a creek overtopping its banks, clogged catch basin or storm drains, poor site drainage, and mud and debris laden flows from the hills above Pleasant Hill. To find out more information on local flood hazards, or for information on any other flood related question, call the City's Floodplain Manager at (925) 671-5261.

City flood service

If requested, City staff will visit a property to review its flood problem(s) and explain ways to reduce flooding potential or help to prevent flood damage. Printed copies of flood maps and flood protection references are available at City Hall and at the Central County Library located at 1750 Oak Park Boulevard, Pleasant Hill (925) 646-6434. Digital copies of flood maps can be obtained directly from FEMA's website at <http://www.msc.fema.gov>. Please also visit the City's website at <http://www.pleasant-hill.net/flood> for more information.

Drainage system maintenance

The City regularly cleans and maintains drainage channels. However, dumping debris into storm drains creates problems for everyone. Such dumping not only results in an expense to taxpayers for cleanup, but also can restrict water flow and create flood hazards. The dumping of debris into the City's storm drainage channels is prohibited by Municipal Code. To report cases of illegal dumping in channels call the Maintenance Division at (925) 671-4646.



Additional flood information

Property protection measures

There are several ways to help protect property from flood hazards. The following examples may or may not be economically feasible or practical for every situation:



- Provide adequate drainage paths around structures on slopes.
- Elevate or relocate electrical panel boxes, furnaces, water heaters, and appliances to an area that is less likely to be flooded.
- Move essential items and valuables to the upper floors of your home if flooding is likely.
- Keep materials such as sandbags, plywood, and plastic sheeting handy for emergency waterproofing. Sandbags can be obtained at the Public Service Center located at 310 Civic Drive. During the rainy season sandbag stations are also set up at City Hall (visitor parking lot) and Oak Park Boulevard/Monticello Avenue.
- Anchor the structure to prevent flotation, collapse or lateral movement.
- Elevate homes so that the lowest floor is a minimum of 1 foot above the base flood (100 year) elevation.



Flood insurance

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) makes federally backed flood insurance available to everyone in the City, whether they are in a floodplain or not. Insurance is available for buildings



(including walls, floors, and insulation) and contents (which is also available to renters). It is important to note that the standard homeowner policy that most of us have will not cover a loss caused by flooding. For information about flood insurance, call your insurance agent or the NFIP customer service line at (800) 638-6620.

Please be aware, that the purchase of flood insurance is mandatory for federally backed mortgages on buildings located within SFHAs. The minimum standard flood insurance coverage required by the federal government for a SFHA property is the less of the following: 1) the outstanding mortgage balance on the structure, 2) the replacement cost of the structure or 3) \$250,000 for a residential structure, and \$500,000 for industrial/commercial. This insurance coverage limit does not apply to property outside the SFHA.

Elevation Certificates

An Elevation Certificate (EC) provides elevation information necessary to determine the proper insurance premium rate. If your house is at or above the base flood elevation, you could receive a substantial discount on your flood insurance premium by providing an EC to your insurance agent.

For properties in Flood Zone AO, an EC can be filled out by the property owner or the owner's representative. For all other flood zones, the EC will have to be prepared by a licensed surveyor or engineer.

Copies of the form and instructions are available from the City Engineering Division or can be downloaded from FEMA's website (<http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/elvinst.shtm>).

The City of Pleasant Hill maintains the Elevation Certificates of all new and substantially improved buildings in the SFHA. To obtain a copy of the certificates or for help in preparing one, call the City's Floodplain Manager at (925) 671-5261.

Services and permit requirements



Flood warnings

- If flooding occurs, the County will warn citizens through radio, TV announcements, and emergency officials and vehicles.
- Know the flood warning procedures and plan escape routes to high ground.
- Monitor the level of water in the street or flood control channel.
- Stay tuned to your battery operated radio and local television channel for possible warnings.
- Turn off water and electricity in your home during flood emergencies; turn off gas only if you smell gas.



- Be especially cautious at night.

For additional information on the City's flood warning and emergency response plan contact the City Office of Emergency Services, Police Department, 330 Civic Drive, Pleasant Hill (925) 288-4600.

Floodplain development permit requirements

Any development within the SFHA is subject to Federal and City Floodplain management requirements. Always check with the Engineering Division before you build on, alter, regrade, or fill on your property. To report illegal floodplain development activity, call the City's Floodplain Manager at (925) 671-5261.

- ✓ **Floor Elevation**—New residential buildings in the SFHA must have their lowest floor elevation (excluding garage) flood-proofed or raised above the 100-year Base Flood Elevation (BFE).
- ✓ **Substantial Improvements (SI)**—Substantially improved structures in the SFHA must meet the same floodplain construction requirements as new buildings. SI is defined as any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50% of the fair market value of the structure (excluding land value) before the start of the new construction.
- ✓ **Substantial Damage (SD)**—Substantially damaged structures (a structure damaged by fire, earthquake, flood and etc. so that the cost of repairs equals or exceeds 50% of the structure's value before it was damaged) in the SFHA must also meet the same floodplain construction requirements as new buildings.

For additional information on the City's Floodplain Management Program, visit the City's website at <http://www.pleasant-hill.net/flood> or contact the City's Floodplain Manager at (925) 671-5261.

