

the OUTLOOK

of Pleasant Hill, California

Two Suzannes retire from City Hall...they will be missed!

Vice Mayor Suzanne Angeli steps down from City Council

Vice Mayor Sue Angeli formally retired as a sitting member of the Pleasant Hill City Council at its meeting on December 15, 2008. During her 9 years on the Council, Sue was highly respected by fellow Councilmembers, City staff and residents, not least for her keen sense of humor.

"Sue's passion for community issues is second to none and her presence on the City Council will be greatly missed," noted Tim Argenti, General Manager with Allied Waste.

Sue was first elected to the City Council in 1999, having previously served as a Planning Commissioner since 1996. During her tenure on the Council, Sue served as Mayor in 2001 and 2003, and as the Redevelopment Agency Chair in 2002 and 2007.

She was the City-appointed representative on numerous committees, including the Buchanan Field Airport Master

—continued on page 2



Sue Angeli with Muzzie, the police dog

Suzanne Salter retires after 24 years as City Treasurer

Having served six terms as Treasurer of the City of Pleasant Hill, Suzanne Salter recently decided to turn in her checkbook and retire. Suzanne's successor is Mark Celio who was elected to the position in November 2008.

Suzanne was originally appointed to the position of City Treasurer in 1984 when then current treasurer, J. Joan Butterfield, had decided to move to Hawaii. Suzanne was subsequently elected to the position of City Treasurer in 1987 and has been re-elected ever since.

Suzanne is married to Dan Salter and they have lived in Pleasant Hill for 39 years, moving here in 1969. They have three children—Keith, Scott, and Elizabeth—and five grandchildren. In 2003 she retired from a 28-year career as an Enrolled Agent and tax preparer.

After that retirement, Suzanne went to DVC for two years of music theory, polished up her piano playing, and took voice and harp lessons.

Two important hobbies for her have been singing and quilting. Since 1997 she has been a member of



Suzanne Salter

—continued on page 2

Community Awards Night (page 3) And the winners were...!

Back row left to right:

Jim Goonan, Mark Rolindelli, Aloma Levine, Linda Worsham, Tom MacDonald, Barry Howell, Jim Bonato, Rod Santos, Rich Dodson, Charley Daly.

Front row left to right:

Verna Norris, Louise Bourassa, Sara Marsh, Sherry Sterrett, David Mascaro, Jessica Braverman, and Faye Donaghu. Not Pictured is Kelly McBee.





Prevent home and car burglaries with simple precautions

—Police Chief, Pete Dunbar

This is the time of year when many people leave on vacations to spend time with friends and family. However, your vacation or night out with friends can become a nightmare if returning home to find that you have been the victim of a crime. That happened to me in 1986, and I never want it to happen to you. Here are a few precautions to prevent that experience:

- **Lock your house, including closing/locking your garage.** Open garages and back doors during the day have led to homes being burglarized every year.



- **Take anything of value out of your car and LOCK IT!** Every week someone loses their property because they don't lock their car. If a thief can't see something of value inside, they are much less likely to try your car.
- **Let your neighbors know if you will be away.** The Police department encourages everyone to report suspicious activity to keep our neighborhoods safe.

Property crimes are the city's most common crime. These crimes occur because victims do not take precautions to prevent them and display their valuables to thieves. Don't become a victim! ♣

Sue Angeli steps down—continued from page 1

Plan Steering Committee, Mayors Conference, Chamber of Commerce, and East Bay Division of the League of California Cities. She also served on the CCCTA (Central Contra Costa Transit Authority) Board of Directors.

"Sue was always very supportive of Rodgers Ranch and understood the importance of the work that we do here in preserving our sense of community," said Denise Koroslev, President of the Friends of Rodgers Ranch.

Sue has been the President of the BART District Professional Employees of SEIU Local 1021 for the last 9 years and an employee with the BART District since 1975. She has lived in Pleasant Hill since 1993 and has been a resident of Contra Costa County since 1977.

An avid lover of four-legged friends, one of her proudest achievements was leading the campaign to raise \$20,000 for the purchase of the City's first two police dogs, Apex and Titan. "In fact, she has been one of the strongest supporters of our Police Department while being on the City Council," said Civic Action Commissioner Sheila Cotruvo.

In retirement, she is excited about spending more time with her own dog. Staff and elected officials all wish her well on her retirement from the City Council. ♣

Suzanne Salter retires—continued from page 1

the Diablo Women's Chorale, a group founded in 1944 which has given two concerts a year for the last 64 years. She has also sung with the DVC Masterworks Chorale, the Golden Notes of Pleasant Hill Senior Center, the Martinez Adult Chorus, and the Pleasant Hill Christmas Carolers, and she performs at convalescent and senior homes with the Silver Wings Repertory. In addition, she is a Happy Hooper, tap dancing with the Rossmoor Rhythm Revue.

As for quilting, Suzanne quilts with the Guild of Quilters of Contra Costa and does hospice quilting at the Mt. Diablo Adult Center for a Contra Costa hospice group. They have lovingly stitched nearly 4,000 quilts. She is also a member of Valley Stitchers.

She is currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Pleasant Hill Community Foundation and plays an active role in this community-based organization.

A graduate of Cal State Hayward, Suzanne joined the Pleasant Hill American Association of University Women in the 1980s. She has attended Branch functions throughout the years, becoming more active since her retirement, and now serves as Branch Treasurer.

As for what the future may bring, Suzanne looks forward to plucking the strings on her harp, and she and Dan plan many trips in their new 27-foot motor home. The residents of Pleasant Hill have been well served over the past 24 years by this multi-talented lady, and the City is grateful for all her contributions. And, as the saying goes, if you want something done, give it to a busy person—and Suzanne was just that kind of person. ♣



Suzanne Salter with members of the City's Finance Department

Community Awards bestowed on 'Pillars of the Community'

The 38th Annual Pleasant Hill Community Awards Night was a night full of joy (and some tears) and many congratulations all round—not just to the winners but also to those nominated for the various awards.

In all, there were 24 nominees for 12 awards ranging from Teen of the Year to the Mayor's Award to Citizen of the Year among others.

★ Community Awards



Sherry Sterrett

The prestigious Citizen of the Year Award was bestowed on **Sherry Sterrett** for her dedication and involvement as a community activist for more than 30 years. She served on the City Council and the Mt. Diablo

Unified School District Board, and she currently serves as a member of the Recreation & Park District Board. She has held office as Mayor and Chair of the two boards, has also volunteered with many community organizations, and continues to be active with the PH Lions Club.

The Community Plus Award was given to the energetic **Charley Daly**, CEO of the Chamber of Commerce, for his efforts in spearheading new programs and events that benefit businesses and residents in Pleasant Hill.

Teen of the Year was awarded to **Kelly McBee**, a Senior at College Park High, for her involvement with the Teen

Council and the leadership and participation demonstrated by her through school activities and programs.

The Mayor's Award went to three recipients this year—**Contra Costa Interfaith Housing** for its unselfish work in stabilizing and improving the lives of homeless families; **Jim Bonato** for his voluntary leadership with the Fourth of July Commission, CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) and Rotary; and **Barry Howell** of Outback Steakhouse for his significant contributions to the community including Community Service Day, National Night Out, and the summer concerts at City Hall.

Educator of the Year award went to **Rich Dodson**, a 6th Grade teacher at Sequoia Middle School. Rich was honored for his enthusiasm and promoting learning at the highest levels by tapping into the varied interests and diverse cultures of his students.

★ Recreation & Park District Awards

Mark Rolandelli and **Jim Goonan** of Pleasant Hill Baseball Association won the Community Service Award for their commitment and dedication in completing the Sports Building at Pleasant Oaks Park. The Board Appreciation Award went to **Verna Norris** for exemplary volunteer work at the Senior Center.

★ Chamber of Commerce Awards

The Chamber Board Appreciation Award went to **Faye Donaghu** of Donaghu Graphic Designs and **Rod Santos** of Wine Thieves, recognizing their invaluable contributions to improving the Art, Wine & Jazz Festival. **Jessica Braverman** of California Employment Law was awarded Ambassador of the Year for her magnificent volunteer efforts during 2008 on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce.

David Mascaro of Diablo Trophies & Awards and **Aloma Levine** of Salon INNOVATIONS received this year's Business Hall of Fame awards. Diablo Trophies has been a member of the Chamber for 36 years, during which time Dave (and his father) contributed in many ways to supporting other businesses in Pleasant Hill and making the Chamber stronger. Aloma Levine was recognized for her leadership within the Chamber, her superb organizational skills, and her volunteer efforts with many community events and organizations in Pleasant Hill.

Business Person of the Year honor was bestowed on **Tom MacDonald** of The Chateaus for his generosity and selfless dedication to the entire Pleasant Hill community. ♣

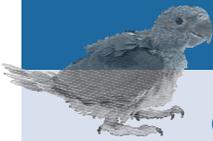


Rotary members build "box dinners" for the holidays at the Salvation Army



A group of Pleasant Hill Rotarians, led by President Steve Wallace (photo on left) worked to help assemble 300 boxes of food for Thanksgiving dinners for those who might otherwise go without. They later participated in the annual Toy & Joy at the Salvation Army, helping give many families a merrier Christmas.





Code Connection

Critters in Pleasant Hill

Code Enforcement throughout the year receives many calls regarding animals and fowl. Since the City does not have an animal control service unit, it contracts with Contra Costa County for services. Listed below are answers to questions received throughout the year.

■ **What is a domestic animal?**

Answer: A small animal of the type generally accepted as a pet, including dog, cat, rabbit, songbird, fish, and the like, but not including chicken, duck, goose, pea fowl, goat, sheep, pig, hog or the like.

■ **What is an exotic animal?**

Answer: A wild animal not customarily confined or cultivated by man for domestic or commercial purposes but kept as a pet or for display.

■ **What is a large animal?**

Answer: An adult animal larger than 2.5 feet in height or 150 pounds. This term includes horse, cow, and any other mammal customarily kept in a pen, corral or stable.

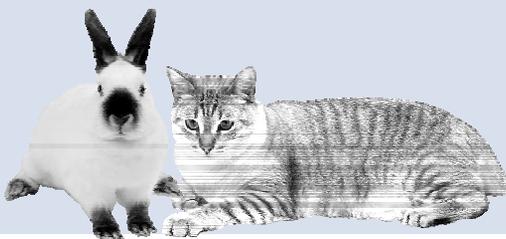
■ **What is a small animal?**

Answer: An animal no larger than 2.5 feet in height or 150 pounds. This term includes fish, bird, and any mammal customarily kept as a domestic pet within a dwelling unit.

Some residents have inquired about keeping chickens, and the answer is that you can in Pleasant Hill! The City permits you to have up to five hens—but be careful as roosters are NOT allowed. Their crowing seems to irritate the neighbors at 5am. Domestic and small animals kept as pets are permitted, but no more than three mature dogs and no more than five mature cats, hens, or rabbits may be kept, harbored, possessed, or maintained on any residential parcel. However, this does not include puppies, bunnies, or kittens that suddenly appear. But once they mature you must get back to the totals outlined above.

Can you have a goose, turkey, pigs, goats, or sheep? The answer is NO in a residential area; however, there are exceptions for homes with an acre or more.

Noisy animals or birds in a residential neighborhood? It is not permitted to keep an animal, fowl, or bird which by sound or behavior may annoy or disturb other residents. If you have a problem with a barking dog, first be a good neighbor and talk to the offending party. If this fails to resolve the issue, please call Contra Costa Animal Control Services at 335-8300 to file a complaint—they have a particular program set up to deal with such matters. 🍀



Letter to homeowners from the City Building Crew

SOME OUTSIDE AGENCY REQUIREMENTS...

Bay Area Air Quality Management District has mandated that by January 1, 2009 no building permits may be issued for conventional fireplaces, non-U.S. EPA certified woodstoves, and/or fireplace inserts for installation in new construction or remodels. Any gas-fueled or electric-powered fireplace device is allowed under this requirement. A list of approved wood-burning devices for installation and remodels can be found at: www.baaqmd.gov/pio/wood_burning/.

Contra Costa Water District is requiring that all secondary dwelling units within the District's treated water service area have their own meters separate from the main dwelling unit.

Further information can be found at: www.ccwater.com/Customerservice.

Contra Costa Environmental Health Division still requires plan review for new wells and septic systems. For any questions please call 646-2521.

Central Contra Costa Sanitary District still requires sewer permits for connection or reconnection to the public sewer, alteration of an existing side sewer (including connection of a building addition), repair or abandonment of an existing side sewer, and work on an existing public main or extension of a public main. Plumbing work within or under a building is under the City's Building Division. For any questions please call (925)228-9500.

Mt. Diablo Unified School District charges for residential and commercial additions and periodically changes the fees. Presently they are charging \$2.97 per square foot for any residential living space addition over 500 square feet and \$0.47 per square foot for commercial and industrial developments. These fees are to be collected prior to permit issuance. The form is to be filled out and picked up at the City Building Division. The district uses the fees for the purpose of funding the construction and reconstruction of school facilities. For any questions please call 682-8000.

All this information is available in our office at 671-5200.

Sincerely,

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

Front yard landscaping in residential districts and sight distance zones

If you're thinking of changing the landscaped areas of your front yard, this article will help you plan those changes so that they comply with Pleasant Hill's Zoning Ordinance.

What are the requirements for landscaping?

In the front yard setback area, at least 50% of the area must be landscaped. This means that some combination of trees, ground cover, shrubs, vines, flowers or lawn must be planted and maintained. Recreational vehicles, utility trailers, un-mounted camper tops, boats, cars, trucks, motorcycles, and other vehicles are not allowed to be parked within the required landscape area.

Where exactly is the front yard area?

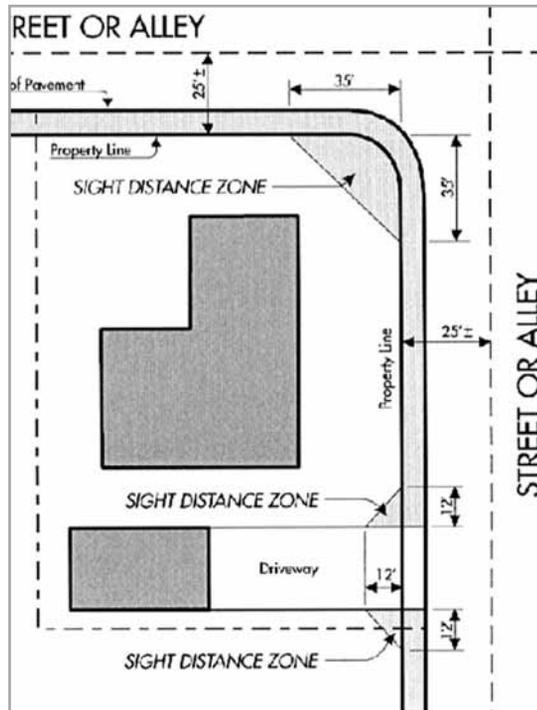
Previous articles have discussed how to locate your front property line, and more information to assist in determining the location of your front property line is available from the Public Works and Community Development Department. In general, the front yard area is the portion of land between your front property line and 20 feet back from your property line towards your residence.

Is a permit required to change my front yard landscaping?

For single family residences, a permit is not required to make front yard landscape changes unless trees are proposed to be removed (please check with us for tree removal permit information before any trees are removed). If any plumbing or electrical work is involved in your landscape project, check with the Building Division to determine if the work will require a permit. Landscape changes for commercial, multi-family residential, or residential developments with commonly maintained yard or open space areas typically do require prior review and approval by the Planning Division.

What is meant by "Sight Distance Zones?"

Sight Distance Zones are areas adjacent to driveways and at street intersections where the height of landscaping, vegetation, fences, and other structures is limited to maintain a clear view of oncoming traffic. These areas are also known as "vision-triangles." The diagram below shows how these areas are measured. At the end of your driveway, there are two 12-foot by 12-foot vision-triangles at the point where your driveway meets your front property line. If you have a corner lot, there's a 35-foot by 35-foot vision triangle at the corner of your property. Within the Sight Distance Zones, vegetation and structures may not be taller than 3-feet in height. These restrictions are necessary for public safety.



What if I have more questions?

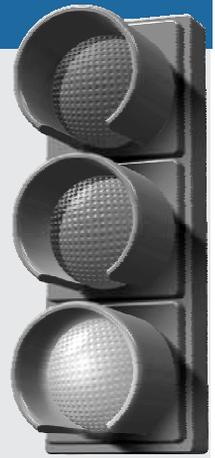
For more information, you can contact the Planning Division at 671-5209 or the Engineering Division at 671-5264. On the internet, click "Contact Us" on the City website. ♣

Streetlights

If the streetlights are out in your neighborhood, you can contact PG&E directly to repair them. The City's Maintenance Division oversees the streetlights in Pleasant Hill, but PG&E is responsible for most repairs.

If you notice a streetlight is not working, note the location and the pole number, and then report it to PG&E directly. You can call their Customer Service Department at PG&E at (800) 743-5000 or report it online at pge.com.

The City Maintenance Division monitors streetlights on the main arterial and collector streets, such as Gregory Lane, Contra Costa Boulevard, Chilpancingo Parkway, and Taylor Boulevard. Contact the Maintenance Division with any questions about streetlights at 671-4646. ♣



Election results

On November 4, 2008, a record number of Pleasant Hill voters (88%) elected five City officials. Councilmembers John Hanecak and David Durant were re-elected and Councilmember Karen Mitchoff, a former Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District Director and City Planning Commissioner, was newly-elected. Councilmember Mitchoff will fill the vacancy created by Councilmember Sue Angeli who chose not to seek re-election (see related story on page 1).

Voters re-elected City Clerk Marty McInturf for a second term and also selected a new City Treasurer, Mark Celio, to replace Suzanne Salter who retired in December (see page 1).

These newly-elected officials were officially sworn into office at a City Council meeting on December 15, 2008. ♣



With the winter storm season imminent, here are a few reminders that should help all residents during any rainstorms that might occur.

Creeks

Residents are responsible for keeping debris and blockages out of the creeks and waterways, especially in areas adjacent to their property. It is everyone's responsibility to monitor creeks and waterways adjacent to their property and important to remember that water from the streets flows directly into the creeks and storm drain system—so please help keep them clear of debris, leaves, and branches. Even if you don't live directly on a creek, keeping the water flowing could help avoid flooding in your neighborhood. If you see branches or blockages in a creek, please have them safely removed. For questions or concerns, please notify the Maintenance Division by calling 671-4646.

Winter storm tracking

Using the National Weather Service (NWS) forecast models, the projected path, magnitude, intensity and duration of storms are tracked. This information is used to determine the type and amount of resources needed to address a given storm event. Also, weather reports are posted on the City's website under "Weather Watch" and provide a summary of the NWS forecast including weather watches, warnings, and advisories.

Sandbag Stations

Sandbags and sand will be made available for residents of Pleasant Hill in case of winter flooding. Residents are asked to take no more than 10 bags.

Three "fill-your-own" sandbag stations are at:

- **City Hall parking lot** (100 Gregory Lane at Trelany—behind Michael's)
 - **Community Center parking lot** (320 Civic Drive—behind the Police Department)
 - **Monticello** at Oak Park Blvd. (across from the PH Central Library)
- Emergency stations are stocked before major storms; look for signage in the areas of:
- **Safeway parking lot** (Patterson Blvd. at Oak Park Blvd.)
 - **Kahrs Ave**—west side in the turnout between Coleman Court and Turrin Drive
 - **Liahona Court** (by Sequoia Elementary School)
 - **212 Poshard Street** (private resident's curb)



County offices move to Ellinwood Way

The Employment & Human Services Department of Contra Costa County has recently taken up residence in the office buildings at 300-500 Ellinwood Way. Owned by DJM Capital Partners Inc., the buildings underwent major renovations prior to their occupation by the County.

The Employment & Human Services Department relocated from offices at 30-40 Muir Road in Martinez. The Ellinwood Way location was chosen primarily because of its proximity to clients, availability of public transportation, ample parking, and having the space to accommodate staff. It presented an excellent opportunity to relocate the approximately 270 staff from Muir Road, but also to consolidate many services and staff from other central county locations into one office site where the public could find all social services.

The following programs and services will operate from the new Ellinwood Way location:

- CalWORKs and General Assistance cash aid
- Welfare-to-Work services for CalWORKs clients
- Food Stamps & Medical Intake for families and individuals
- SSI Advocacy services for CalWORKs and General Assistance
- Child Protective Services
- VESTIA Volunteer Services program
- In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program and the IHSS Public Authority

In addition, the new offices will be home to the Information Technology division, the Office of Appeals and Fair Hearings, the Early Fraud Investigative unit, and Fraud Overpayments Unit.

Almost two-thirds of all Central County EHSD clients live in Concord, Pleasant Hill and Clayton, making this a much more central location than Martinez for many of the public who come to EHSD for services. Ellinwood Way is also served by an established County Connection Bus Route (#109), and there is adequate accessibility and disabled parking for seniors and clients with disabilities who may need to visit the EHSD offices.

There is also sufficient space in the new buildings to allow for future growth and additional staff as the need arises, including the Workforce Development Board and Small Business Development Center, which will relocate from Concord by spring 2009.

For more information or to contact the EHSD call 602-9379 or go to www.ehds.org.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training resumes on February 12

Recent quakes in China, Japan, Pakistan, Los Angeles, and off the Mendocino Coast serve as a wakeup call for each of us to check our readiness to withstand a major temblor along the Hayward or Concord-Green Valley faults—whether we are at work or at home.

Pleasant Hill's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training has to date trained more than 220 residents in disaster preparedness and response protocols should a major earthquake or other disaster befall our community. These residents have received training in how to prepare their own family to safely prepare for and respond to a disaster—such as a major earthquake. Following a disaster, residents then have the confidence to apply the skills they have learned to safely suppress small fires, confidently perform medical emergency first aid, and safely perform light search and rescue if neighbors are trapped in homes. As additional neighbors are trained, neighborhood teams are being formed to leverage their skills even more.

Pleasant Hill's CERT Steering Committee, comprised of local volunteers, has identified 17 CERT geographical areas for team building. Each CERT Area is to be organized by a CERT Area Leader to assist in recruiting volunteers and neighborhood team building. To date, 13 of these CERT Areas now have a CERT Area Leader. Primary and alternate emergency assembly areas have been identified for most areas. Telephone notification tests are conducted periodically to test the network's ability to communicate with members, should there be a need to mobilize. Quarterly training classes are held to refresh older skills and to teach new skills.

Last January 4, Pleasant Hill CERT members responded to local flooding by filling sandbags for residents and distributing emergency assistance flyers in neighborhoods threatened by flooding. In November and December this year, CERT volunteers worked with employees of the Pleasant Hill Public Works Department to fill over 2000 sandbags in anticipation of heavy rains and possible flooding this winter.



CERT member Steve Ganguet stacks the filled sandbags as Bill Brink and Jacki Gelder fill the bags and tie them off. Public Works employee Stan Ramella keeps the area free of spilled sand.

"We are looking for Pleasant Hill residents who want to be prepared and want to assist others," states Steering Committee Chair, Jim Bonato. The next CERT training class begins on February 12 and will be held on Thursday evenings for 6 weeks. Classes begin at 6:30pm, last three hours, and are conducted at the Contra Costa Fire District's Training Center at 2945 Treat Blvd. in Concord.

To enroll in the class online, go to www.PleasantHillCERTsignup.com or the City's website at www.ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us. Or you may contact Lieutenant Jose delaTorre at the Pleasant Hill Police Department at 288-4633. ♣

Diablo Valley College hosts CERT training for staff

The Contra Costa Community College District's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) held a meeting and exercise at Diablo Valley College on November 7. Unlike the neighborhood CERT program in Pleasant Hill and other communities, CERT members on community college campuses are college police officers and aides, staff, faculty and administrators who respond to disasters affecting the District's campuses. Like their neighborhood counterparts, they are trained in basic disaster response skills, such as light search and rescue, fire safety, team organization, terrorism, disaster psychology, and disaster medical operations.

DVC CERT members were joined by members of the Los Medanos College, Contra Costa College, and District Office CERT teams. According to Officer Teddy Terstegge, a CCCC police officer and the Emergency Services Coordinator for the Community College District's CERT/SET, the training provided members with a brief overview of the skills learned during their basic class and provided them with an opportunity to practice their search and triage skills.

A CERT class for college staff is offered twice a year at various college locations. This specialized class consists of 24 hours of training in the classroom and in the field. The Contra Costa Community College District's CERT was established in September of 2006, and the first basic class was held in September 2006 at DVC for District police personnel. Since that time, according to Terstegge, 120 people have been trained, and there are 66 CERT-trained personnel in the District at the various sites, with the greatest number being at each of the major campuses.

CERT training promotes a partnering effort between emergency services and the people they serve. The goal is for emergency personnel to train members of neighborhoods, community organizations, or workplaces in basic response skills. ♣



FPHE launches community campaign for education

The Foundation for Pleasant Hill Education (FPHE) has announced their first Community Campaign for Education. The Foundation is committed to raising funds to support the 11 public schools in Pleasant Hill. During the first quarter of 2009 their campaign goal is to raise \$55,000.

Why is a Community Campaign for Education needed in Pleasant Hill? California spends less per student than most states, and current projections from the State of California show that during the 2009-2010 school year the Mt. Diablo Unified School District will receive a significant reduction in state funding. The decrease in student funding is estimated to be \$600 per student, with a reduction of between \$6.6 and \$11 million for the district.

The money raised from the first annual campaign will help maintain current levels of education for Pleasant Hill elementary, middle, and high school students through grants for language arts, math, science, and the arts.

How can you help? Please contribute to the Community Campaign for Education. By coming together as a community, Pleasant Hill can help bridge the gap in state funding. All residents, whether or not school-aged children are in the home, can contribute. Strong schools in Pleasant Hill benefit us all:

- ▶ Pleasant Hill is seen as a community that values education.
- ▶ The community's children experience a well-rounded education that prepares them for the future.
- ▶ Property values increase as the quality of local public schools increases.
- ▶ Pleasant Hill will continue to be a highly desirable place to live.

All schools in the College Park High School feeder pattern will be impacted positively, creating a stronger educational experience for all grade levels.

Over the years, as public education funds have continually declined, other local communities have reached out to community members to raise funds for school resources. Successful education foundations in Walnut Creek, Orinda, Lafayette, Danville, and Martinez are all great models where communities have come together for education. Now is Pleasant Hill's time to act.

Please visit the Foundation for Pleasant Hill Education web site, www.fphe.org, and make a pledge with your credit card or send your donation to FPHE, P.O. Box 23851, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523.

Thank you for your commitment to education in Pleasant Hill. For more information about FPHE visit www.fphe.org or email generalinfo@fphe.org. ♣

Pleasant Hill Community Foundation Announces Youth Grant Awards

The Pleasant Hill Community Foundation has awarded 2008 Youth Grants for the following projects:

- College Park High School for the Instrumental Music Program, earth2earth cooking class and diving board restoration
- Pleasant Hill Star Quest for microphones and costumes
- S.T.A.G.E. Troupe Behind the Scenes Parents Association for a new spotlight
- Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park District for a new computer at KIDSTOP Children's Center, Eagle Scout project of a retaining wall at Pleasant Oaks Park, and Project Teens Leading Change youth-led outreach and service projects
- Friends of Rodgers Ranch for a propane tank for the fireplace
- Fair Oaks Elementary School for a storyteller at the Celebration of Reading
- Gardens at Heather Farms for a natural science program at Fair Oaks Elementary School
- Valley View Middle School and Sequoia Middle School for overhead cameras

The proceeds from the 8th Annual Pleasant Hill Sunvalley Golf Classic held last May funded these grant awards. Betty Geishirt Cantrell, Foundation President and Youth Grant Awards Chair, stated, "The Pleasant Hill Community Foundation is very thankful to all the people who participated in the Golf Classic. Their generous efforts benefited schools, community organizations, recreation groups, music programs, youth theater, healthy projects and youth-led endeavors that positively impact the youth of Pleasant Hill."

The 9th Annual Pleasant Hill Sunvalley Golf Classic will be held May 11, 2009 at the Contra Costa Country Club. Please join the foundation for a fun-filled day that supports the youth of Pleasant Hill. See www.PHCommunityFoundation.org for more information. ♣



Stage Troupe tech crew proudly showed off their new spotlight at a production of their current play, *'Twas the Night Before*.

Library programs for the New Year...

Adult programs

Join us for the first in a three-part series on caring for aging parents

Pleasant Hill Library is pleased to offer a three-part series on topics related to caring for aging family members. The first workshop, *Discussing Aging Concerns With an Aging Parent*, will be on Wednesday evening, February 4, at 7pm, with speaker Eileen Nevitt of Eldercare Services. All are welcome to this free program.

Teen programs

Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions workshop

On Wednesday, January 14, at 6:30pm Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions will present a free workshop for high school students about test strategies for the ACT. Registration is required. Beginning Friday December 12 register on the library's website, ccclib.org, or contact the Pleasant Hill Library at 646-6434.

Children's programs

For the month of January children will be invited to write or draw a picture of their dreams for our Free2Dream bulletin board honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. During the month of February children will be able to illustrate why they love their library for our Library Lovers' Month bulletin board. Materials for both these activities will be available at the library at the beginning of each month.

■ School Age Valentine program

Thursday, February 12, at 7pm. Join in Valentine fun with stories, games, a craft and treats! For kids 2nd grade and up.

■ Family Storytime Valentine special

Thursday, February 12, at 7pm. Especially for kids age 3 through 1st grade. Stories, Valentine BINGO and fun!

■ Super Student Secrets Workshop

Monday, February 9, at 7pm. Do you want to spend 45 minutes helping your child become a "Super Student?" If so, then bring your 3rd to 5th grade child to the Pleasant Hill Library's Super Student Secrets Workshop on Monday, February 9 at 7pm. Learn how your student can look at library reference materials easily from home, on the computer. No more mad

dashes to the library for information for that assignment that's due tomorrow! No more sorting through thousands of Google results trying to extract age-appropriate material! Discover how easy gathering reliable library information can be. Come learn some Super Student Secrets! (P.S. Did we mention this is going to simplify your life, too?) Registration is limited and required.



Project Second Chance (PSC) —help an adult learn to read Literacy Tutor Training

Wednesday, January 21, 6:30–8:30pm, and continues January 24 and 31, 9am–3pm. All 14 hours are required.

Training will be held at the PSC office, 75 Santa Barbara Road in Pleasant Hill. Please call 927-3250, or email us at psc@ccclib.org for pre-registration information. ♣



Small Business Workshops

Resolve for the New Year to attend the free small business workshops sponsored by the Contra Costa Library and the Contra Costa Small Business Development Center.

It's easy to find the upcoming small business programs. Go to our home page ccclib.org and click on Programs & Events. For event type, search "business" at either Pleasant Hill or other libraries. When you find an event you'd like to attend, you may have a reminder emailed to you, or download the event to your calendar, or even ask to be notified of similar events.

Business Workshops hosted by the Pleasant Hill Library

■ Web Basics, Part I –

Thursday, February 5 at 7pm
at the Pleasant Hill Library

■ Web Basics Part II –

Thursday, February 19 at 7pm
at the Pleasant Hill Library

To register, call the Contra Costa Small Business Development Center at 646-5377 or email zaziz@ContraCostaSBDC.com

For more information about programs at the Pleasant Hill Library, please call the library at 646-6434 during open hours on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 12–8; or Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 10–6; or visit the library online at ccclib.org. ♣

Helping our schools

A recent article by the California State PTA indicates how badly state budget cuts are impacting our schools. According to the article, essential school programs and services have been cut so deeply that Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) are being asked to fundraise in order to fill the funding gap.

PTAs are being asked to provide basic classroom supplies such as paper, pencils, math or science supplies, textbooks and instructional materials—all an integral part of a school's curriculum. With the current economic crisis, not every neighborhood school has the ability to raise adequate funding in order to shore up the void in these services and support for our children.

What can you do to help maintain the quality of education in our community?

Call your neighborhood school and ask how you can make a difference. Offer your assistance as a volunteer for a few hours a month or week. Some students may need help with reading or homework; the playground may need additional adults to supervise play time.

For the safety of our kids, be aware that the Mt. Diablo Unified School District may require that you be TB tested and fingerprinted prior to volunteering. Schools can inform you about this process.

If you want to help and don't know where to begin, consider giving Principal Cheryl Champion a call at Fair Oaks Elementary School. Funding for field trips has become an issue, and many children do not get to participate. Due to economic hardships, 65% of the student population qualifies for a fee-reduced lunch, and parents often don't have the resources to spend on books. For many of these students, English is a second language and they participate in a reading/tutoring program. Parent volunteers help out, but more assistance from our community is needed. If you can spare one hour of your time from 1:30-2:30pm (except Wednesdays), consider helping out with this program. You can speak with Ms. Champion or Sara Machado at the school office at (925) 685-4494. ♣

Higher education in Pleasant Hill

DVC offers new program in photovoltaic systems

Diablo Valley College now offers a new Associate in Science degree and certificate of achievement in photovoltaic systems, part of the emerging alternative energy field.

According to Tom Chatagnier, DVC department chair and a state leader in the field, photovoltaic systems take light and convert it to electricity using solar panels. The DVC program prepares students to get jobs as photovoltaic systems installers, designers and sales people. Students who complete the program will be able to work with residential, commercial, and industrial size photovoltaic systems. Many of the skills learned in these courses relate to solar thermal systems as well.

Classes are primarily in construction, electricity, and alternative energy technologies and are offered each term in the evening and on weekends, with one class offered during the summer. Generally, it will



take students three to four semesters to complete all the courses required for the certificate of achievement.

Many who enter this program already work in construction, engineering, or other similar professions, and with this added training, their employment options increase.

For more information about this exciting new program, contact the electrical department secretary at 685-1230, ext. 2280, or visit the college web site at www.dvc.edu. ♣



Speak Chinese. . . in just 9 Days!

Always wanted to learn to speak Chinese, but thought it was just too hard? Well, here's your chance. The Asian Pacific Institute at John F. Kennedy University is bringing the *Mandarin in 9 Days* course to Pleasant Hill.

Using the same methods that she developed for her successful *English in 9 Days* program in China, Professor Sheree Lin will have you speaking conversational Mandarin in just 9 class meetings, and enjoying every minute of this fast-paced, course! Harnessing each student's "human power," *Mandarin in 9 Days* begins with an orientation session during which each student creates a personal Mandarin learning plan that takes advantage of the student's individual learning abilities and strengths. Students spend the next 9 weekly classes learning Mandarin through focused exercises that use a variety of audio and visual aids and can include music, art, or even dance activities.

An expert student-focused language instructor, Professor Lin has taught the Mandarin language for many years and currently teaches at Diablo Valley College.

After the course, the Institute is planning to offer interested participants the opportunity to tour China for 10 days and practice their new language skills.

Offered over 10 Monday evenings beginning on March 9, 2009, *Mandarin in 9 Days* will meet from 6:00pm until 9:00pm on John F. Kennedy University's Pleasant Hill campus. The course fee is \$425. Contact Susan Sermeno (ssermeno@jfknu.edu) at the Asian Pacific Institute for more information. ♣



2009-2010 Kindergarten pre-registration moved to February

Pre-registration of children eligible for kindergarten in August 2009 will be conducted in all Mt. Diablo Unified School District elementary schools on Tuesday, February 3, 2009 (please note the change from May to February). The hours of registration will be 9:00–11:00am and 1:00–3:00pm.

Sequoia Elementary will be holding their kindergarten registration on January 30 from 8:00–11:00am and 12:00–2:00pm in the school library. Students will be called from the waiting list and given specific instructions as to what will be needed.

Children who will reach the age of five (5) years on or before December 2, 2009, are eligible for kindergarten in August. Parents should bring the following documents with them: an original birth certificate or some other official documentary proof of the child's birthdate; three original documents to verify where the child resides (one must be a photo ID); and a written immunization record from a health care provider indicating that all immunization requirements listed below have been met. Check the District website at www.mdusd.k12.ca.us or call your child's school to verify documents needed as proof of residency. Please bring any completed school entry physical examination and dental examination.

California State immunization requirements for Kindergarten admission

- **POLIO.** Four (4) doses are required. Three (3) doses are acceptable if at least one (1) dose was given on or after the fourth birthday.
- **DIPHTHERIA - TETANUS - PERTUSSIS.** Five (5) doses are required. Four (4) doses are acceptable if at least one (1) dose was given on or after the fourth birthday.
- **MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella).** Two (2) doses are required; the first dose must be given on or after the first birthday.
- **HEPATITIS B.** Three (3) doses are required.
- **VARICELLA (Chickenpox).** One (1) dose is required. Physician documented varicella (chickenpox) disease history or immunity will also meet the requirement.

California State physical examination and dental examination requirements (forms are available at your school)

- **PHYSICAL EXAMINATION.** All kindergartners need to have a school entry physical examination. Must be completed after March 1, 2009.
- **DENTAL EXAMINATION.** New requirement as of January 1, 2007. Must be performed by a licensed dentist or other licensed or registered dental health professional. Must be completed by May 31, 2010

Parents are urged to register their children at this time in order to assist school personnel in making plans for the coming year. If it is not known which school the child should attend, parents may call the Board of Education Office at 682-8000, ext. 4000, or access the district's website at www.mdusd.k12.ca.us. Any other questions concerning pre-registration procedures should be directed to the school. ♣

Registration is EASY at DVC!

The following steps are for new students that have never attended college, transfer students, returning students (missed at least one semester) and enrolled high school students. For additional instructions, please visit www.dvc.edu/admissions.

1. Complete and submit a DVC application.

An application can be completed online at www.dvc.edu or they are available at the DVC campus.

2. Send your official transcripts. All transcripts (high school and other college institutions) must be submitted to the DVC Admissions and Records Office.

3. Take an assessment test at DVC. For the days and times of assessments please visit www.dvc.edu/assessment or call 685-1230, ext.2545.

4. Apply for financial aid (if applicable) and learn about our extended opportunity programs and services (EOPS). This step is not mandatory—it is optional. For more information on financial aid visit www.dvc.edu/financialaid or call 685-1230, ext 2290. For more information on EOPS visit www.dvc.edu/eops or call 685-1230, ext. 2236.

5. Attend orientation and advisement counseling. New students for spring 2009 who have completed 12 units or less are encouraged to register for Counseling 105 or visit drop-in counseling in the Counseling Center. Students must complete the math and English assessments at least 7 working days before the Counseling 105 course begins.

6. Register for courses. You may register in person, online, or over the phone. For assistance using the WebAdvisor online registration system, visit the Information Center located in the Student Services Center.

7. Pay fees. You can pay online by credit card when registering through WebAdvisor, or you can pay at the Cashier's Office by credit card, check, or money order.

8. Obtain free student ID card. After registering for courses, take your schedule with a photo ID to the Student Life Office to obtain your free "Connect Card." You must have this card to use the library and/or printers around campus.

Registration dates for spring 2009

- January 4: Online and telephone registration
- January 8-14: In-person registration begins; online and telephone registration continues
- January 15: Most classes start (some late start classes begin throughout the semester.)

Chamber launches new Web Security Program

The Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce has announced their partnership with **Think Security First**, an award-winning cyber security awareness program to help Chamber members and the community avoid the growing costs of cybercrime and identity theft. As part of Think Security First, the Pleasant Hill Chamber will be part of a lead group of bay area cities that will be working together to provide free security awareness and education to the community.

The central feature of this exciting program is the new security awareness web site, created by a team of the nation's leading cyber security experts, which you can find by visiting the chamber web site at www.pleasanthillchamber.com and clicking on the Think Security First icon. This new site is packed with expert advice and free tools to help businesses and residents learn how to protect themselves.

For local businesses, the new site includes everything you need to protect



your customers and your livelihood, including free online training, free security policies and other important documents, free advice from local and national security experts, and online forums to help you to learn from other businesses.

This program being created in Pleasant Hill will be used as a model by chambers and cities across the nation as a bold new approach to protecting our communities.

There are a number of ways you can participate and help make this initiative a success:

- Visit the web site and learn how to protect yourself, by participating in the forums and signing up for the free newsletter and alert service.
- Tell everyone you know—friends, family, colleagues, and even customers—about this great free resource so they can benefit from it, too.



- Consider becoming a sponsor of this history-making program.

Think Security First would not be possible without the support of local sponsors, and there are some valuable sponsorship opportunities for the local business community to meet new customers while at the same time demonstrating a true commitment to bettering our community.

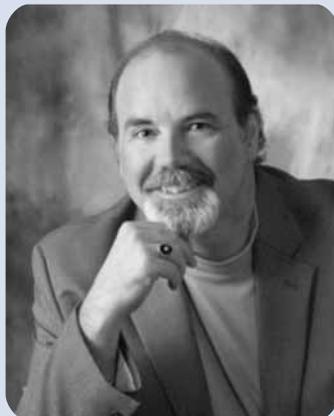
As a sponsor you can be proud that you're also participating in the pilot program of a new approach to security awareness that will be used as a model for cities and communities across the nation.

If you'd like to learn more about the initiative, visit the Pleasant Hill Chamber web site at www.pleasanthillchamber.com and click on the Think Security First icon. ♣

New president for the Chamber of Commerce

During Community Awards Night on November 12th, the Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce installed its new Board of Directors for the coming year. Taking over as President is **John M. Kamp**, owner of the *The Business Kamp*—a comprehensive business services and consulting firm.

John has over 17 years of business experience in a variety of industries and has held positions as Sales and Marketing Manager, Chief Operations Officer, General Manager, President and CEO. He also



served in the United States Navy for 12 years receiving two Navy Achievement Medals. John has a unique, personal approach to business, from conception of ideas or concepts, evaluation of current issues, to taking an established working model and assisting the company to achieve great results. John is an accomplished business coach, public speaker, and gifted motivator. He can be reached at jmkamp@thebusinesskamp.com. ♣



Don't miss the Mayor's breakfast

Plan to join our newly elected Mayor for breakfast on January 30, 7:30-9am at the Hyatt Summerfield Suites, 2611 Contra Costa Blvd. The Mayor will speak on the State of the City of Pleasant Hill and his plans for 2009

The breakfast, sponsored by the Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce, will cost \$30 per person. Tickets are on sale through the Chamber and RSVPs are due by January 25. For more information on this very popular event, call the Chamber at 687-0700. ♣

12 smarter steps to avoiding identity theft

—Neal O'Farrell,
Founder of Think Security First

Identity theft can happen so quickly and in so many ways it can make your head spin. But there are some key steps you can take to avoid the most common risks.

- **Create a personal or family security plan.** With all the information, advice and solutions being offered, much of it confusing, conflicting, and downright wrong. A personal security plan makes sense of it all so you can find and fill your vulnerabilities before an identity thief exploits them.
- **Have a response plan.** If you become a victim of identity theft, a properly prepared response plan will save you time, money, and heartache on recovery.
- **Monitor your credit around the clock.** A good credit monitoring service like PrivacyMatters will give you the peace of mind so you won't have to worry about the next data break-in or news headline. You're covered!
- **Lock down your computer with good security software.** Every computer should have its own Security Six Pack—a good firewall, up-to-date virus protection, spyware protection, spam filtering, data encryption, and strong passwords. If you know where to look, it's all free.
- **Treat your social security number like Grandma's secret recipe**—consign it to memory then methodically remove it from every printed form it doesn't need to be on.
- **Conduct a security audit of your accountant.** Your accountant may be your weakest security link because at many accountants' offices social security numbers and tax returns are regularly strewn around without much regard for security. Request and confirm that he or she keeps your files in a protected computer and locked filing cabinet.



- **File away your financial information securely and quickly.** Don't leave such things lying around; they are a temptation to a would-be thief to guess.
- **Complicate your passwords.** 1234 may seem like an easy to remember password, but it's just as easy for an identity thief.
- **Mind your mail and invest in a secure mailbox.** Leaving your mail out all day in an open mailbox or not picking it up for days is an open invitation to identity thieves.

And finally, the Deadly "ph":

- **Beware of phishing**—bogus emails pretending to be from your bank or other trusted brand requesting account passwords. If possible always go directly to an institution's website and enter your login and password directly on their site.
- **Beware of pharming**—bogus web sites that look like your bank waiting for you to mistype a url. Look at the address bar and confirm you are where you want to be.
- **Beware of phoning**—pre-recorded telephone messages or live operators pretending to be from a bank or credit card company and warning you about a bogus theft. If you receive such an inquiry, do not offer any personal information. Look up the company's fraud department and call them directly.

For more information about the program, have any questions, or would like to discuss any security issues, please contact Neal O'Farrell at neal@thinksecurityfirst.us. ♣

Hospice offers support to grieving family members

Hospice of the East Bay is pleased to offer a variety of support groups and workshops for adults, children and teens experiencing grief after the death of a loved one. Classes are offered at Hospice's administrative offices, 3470 Buskirk Avenue, Pleasant Hill.

Adult Support Groups/Classes

- **Adults Who Have Lost a Parent**
Monday Evenings, 6:30–8:30pm
January 19–March 9, 2009
- **Widow and Widowers' Support**
Monday Evenings, 6:00 – 8:00pm
February 9–March 30, 2009

Adult Grief Classes

- **Understanding Grief**
Tuesday Evening, 6:30–8:30pm
January 20, 2009

All groups and classes are offered for a fee and require pre-registration. Fees are waived for those who cannot afford them. For further information and/or to register, please call 887-5678.

Established in 1977, Hospice of the East Bay is a not-for-profit agency that helps people cope with life-limiting illnesses by providing medical, emotional, spiritual, and practical support for patients and families, regardless of their ability to pay. Specialized programs include Anna's Program (for women with recurrent breast cancer), Comfort for Kids (pediatric hospice and palliative care), Skye's Angels (perinatal hospice care), and Bruns House (in-patient hospice facility).

To learn more, or to make a donation of time or money, please contact 887-5678, or visit www.hospiceeastbay.org.



Residential Treecycling

- **Curbside Collection** — Place **unflocked** trees in your yard waste cart. Branches must be 6 inches or less in diameter and 3 feet or less in length. Cut off tree tops. Lid must be closed. Unflocked holiday trees will be picked up curbside the week of January 12-16.
- **Drop-off Option** — If you miss curbside collection or forget to put your **unflocked** tree in your yard waste cart, you can take your tree to 444 N. Buchanan Circle in Pacheco, across from Allied Waste Service's main office, between 8am and 4pm, Monday through Friday.

Questions? Call Allied Waste customer service at 685-4711.

NOTE: Flocked trees cannot be recycled. They can be collected curbside for a fee of \$10 per tree. Pickups must be scheduled in advance. Call 685-4711.



Junk Mail

No Junk Mail

Want to save time and resources? Take action to stop receiving unsolicited mail. Visit the following websites for information:

www.stopjunkmail.org
www.greendimes.org

Toxic phones



Your phone is toxic...full of arsenic, lead and harmful chemicals. Don't trash it —take it to your local e-waste facility. Better yet, donate it. Visit

<http://awsccc.com/ewaste.cfm> to find a variety of non-profits anxious to take your phone off your hands at no charge.

Buying a new TV?

The transition from analog to digital television broadcasting is expected to result in thousands of old TV sets being illegally discarded. Dumping televisions not only pollutes your community, it is against the law. E-waste facilities will take your old TVs for free. Visit <http://awsccc.com/ewaste.cfm> to find the facility nearest you.

Mercury in Light Bulbs

Did you know that:

- Fluorescent tubes and CFLs (compact fluorescent lights) contain mercury?



They can be recycled free of charge at the HHW facility listed at left. Call (800) 646-1431 or visit www.centrialsan.org.

Complete the Loop!

Consumer demand helps keep recycling markets healthy. Make it a point to check for postconsumer recycled content in the products you purchase, particularly paper products.



Stop waste in its tracks

Small everyday habits go a long way toward reducing waste:

- Use rechargeable batteries. The higher price quickly translates into savings.
- Bring your own bags to the grocery store.
- Replace disposable cups with a travel mug.
- Donate unwanted goods to charities and thrift stores, and try to buy used goods rather than brand new items.

Where to find more earth-friendly tips

The information on these pages is only the tip of the iceberg! For more earth-friendly tips and local recycling and reuse information, visit: www.ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us/recycling, www.awsccc.com, www.cccrecycle.org or www.earth011.org. For garbage or recycling related questions, please contact Martin Nelis at mnelis@ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us or call 671-5229 or Stacy Antonel, Recycling Coordinator for Allied Waste at 671-5853.

The story of stuff

For every can of garbage placed at the curb, about 70 cans of waste were generated in the course of producing the junk inside it. Visit www.storyofstuff.com for more information and to watch the excellent short film of the same name.

Household battery disposal

It is illegal to dispose of regular household batteries in the trash. As an alternative, you can now drop off batteries at City Hall (in the main lobby area is a blue container) or take them to the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility in Martinez at 4797 Imhoff Place.

Phone (800) 646-1431 or visit www.centrialsan.org.

Don't trash your tires

Tires are banned from the landfill. Recycled tires, however, get a new life in asphalt, helping to make roadways more durable. Call your local tire shop and ask if they accept tires. Expect a nominal fee.



100% California waste tires used in street resurfacing

If you drive in Gregory Gardens, you are now driving on 100% California waste tires. Made possible by a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board, the 2008 Street Resurfacing Project diverted 3,177 California tires from the waste stream, and recycled them into an innovative type of resurfacing material.

Use of this recycled product not only helps the environment, but its cost effectiveness allows the City to resurface more streets than a conventional resurfacing treatment would allow. For more information on this program, please contact Ann Page, Assistant Engineer at 925-671-5260.





FREE E-Waste

HOLIDAY CLEAN OUT!



Ho, ho, ho! So you got new electronics for the holidays.

Saturday • January 3 • 9am-1pm
and first Saturday every month

Diablo Valley College (DVC) • Located at 321 Golf Link Rd • Overflow Parking Lot 7

Clean out your old electronic equipment; computers, monitors, TVs, and more! Bring it to Diablo Valley College (DVC) in Pleasant Hill, 321 Golf Link Rd., Overflow Parking Lot 7, on Saturday, January 3 from 9:00am until 1:00pm. This is a FREE monthly E-Waste Event, which is held the first Saturday of every month! There is NO LIMIT to the amount you can bring!

So pack your car up and "come on down" to DVC in Pleasant Hill. See you there!! For further info about the event, please call toll free (866) 335-3733 or visit our website at www.noEwaste.com.



FREE Public Collection Event for Electronic Waste (e-waste)

Electronic Waste Management
www.noEwaste.com • 866.335.3373

Energy audits for small businesses

Pacific Gas and Electric, the City of Pleasant Hill, and the Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce have recently collaborated in offering small business owners a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by improving energy efficiency. Through its Small Business Program, PG&E provided free energy audits, a comprehensive assessment of a company's energy use throughout its operations. An energy audit identifies the most cost-effective opportunities for energy savings.

PG&E, the City, and the Chamber reached out to many Pleasant Hill businesses, and 250 customers participated in the program. It is estimated that these customers saved a total of 400 kilowatts—enough to power 500 homes for a year.

Understanding that energy costs can have a big impact on the small business customer's bottom line, PG&E also offers fast and easy rebates, and a variety of tools and services tailored to the small business customer in optimizing energy usage at the lowest possible cost.

Businesses participating in PG&E's Small Business Program are eligible for mail-in, CD-ROM, online or phone audits/analysis. Cash rebates and incentives are also available for energy-efficient technologies, whether business owners are replacing or purchasing new equipment with energy-efficient technology. Additionally, cash incentives and design assistance are available for new buildings and system processes.

Examples of popular technologies available through PG&E's Energy Efficiency Rebates for Businesses include agricultural products, appliances and general improvements, boilers and water heating, business computing, food service, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), lighting and refrigeration.

In addition, business owners can learn about the latest energy efficiency options and how they can help small business through classes offered by PG&E at the Pacific Energy Center (PEC) in San Francisco, the Energy Training Center (ETC) in Stockton and the Food Service Technology Center (FSTC) in San Ramon.

For more information, please contact PG&E's Smarter Energy Line for business customers at 1-800-468-4743, or visit www.pge.com/biz/.

THE CHEF IS IN

This new column is intended to highlight new businesses, menus, improvements or renovations and other innovative features that serve to promote the many fine restaurants in the City. This month the focus is on Left Bank Brasserie on Crescent Drive in Downtown Pleasant Hill.

Left Bank unveils its "Gastronomic Relief Package"

Many local restaurants are revising their menus to give customers more value at a reduced cost. One such example is the Left Bank Brasserie on Crescent Drive.

In addition to the regular Brasserie Menu, the Left Bank culinary team recreated a new value-oriented bistro-style menu that features items under \$10. Soups and salads, small plates selections, sandwiches, main plates and petite desserts, along with all day happy hour drink specials, all under \$10. The new Left Bank American Bar Menu is available all day.

On-going bustling bar program

Since the Brasserie opened in 2000, the bustling bar area has been crowded with local jazz lovers enjoying French wines, specialty cocktails and tasty appetizers.

■ Wine Wednesdays.

Every Wednesday, \$5 wine flights and a special bottle wine list for half price.

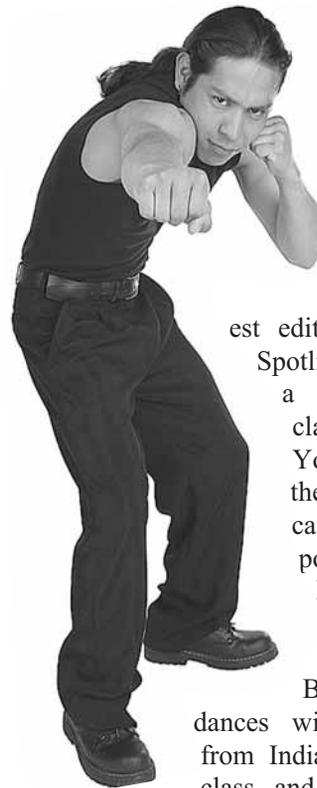
■ Parisian Jazz Soirées.

Friday/Saturday nights and soon to include Thursday night, featuring great local jazz bands.

Left Bank Brasserie Executive Chefs, along with luminary chefs Roland Passot and Joël Guillon, are committed to bringing a little piece of Paris to the Bay Area. Left Bank serves lunch and dinner each day, seven days a week, and offers private dining rooms for celebratory events. For reservations please call 288-1222 or visit their website www.leftbank.com. ♣



Left Bank celebrated the arrival of Beaujolais Nouveau on Thursday, November 20, 2008. The poster was designed by Kristina Tarazoff, an employee of Left Bank Brasserie.



Be fit, feel fine in 2009

Learn to dance, fence, even laugh your way to good health with Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District. In the latest edition of the Spare Time Spotlight, you'll find those and a variety of martial arts classes, several types of Yoga, even stress busters in the new self-improvement category. One of the most popular classes is Bollywood & Bhanra Blast. It's a 45-minute workout that incorporates Bollywood and Bhangra dances with contemporary music from India. Check out the Pilates class, and the Cardio Belly Dance

Fitness! You'll be looking and feeling great before you know it. For more information contact Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District at 676-5200 or www.pleasanthill.rec.com.

Pleasant Hill seeks Iron Horse Corridor applicants

The City is seeking candidates to represent Pleasant Hill on the Contra Costa County Iron Horse Corridor Advisory Committee. This Committee focuses on improving and managing the 18-mile Iron Horse Corridor, including the Iron Horse Trail, which formerly was part of the Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way. The Committee assists Contra Costa County with activities related to mapping; inventorying existing license agreements, easement and contracts; establishing standards to ensure continued operation as a joint use facility; and addressing funding mechanisms to cover program costs, including installation and maintenance of landscaping.

Meetings are held at least quarterly, and more frequently when needed. Candidates must be residents of the City of Pleasant Hill with an active interest in this area and who are willing to invest their time in making a positive contribution.

For an application or information, call 925-671-5284 or e-mail lstehr@ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us. ♣

Pre-School & Parenting Fair in January

The Pleasant Hill Community Center will be the site of the 11th annual Pre-school & Parenting Fair on Saturday, January 10, from 9am to noon. More than 40 pre-schools located in Pleasant Hill, Martinez, Walnut Creek, Concord, Lafayette, and Alamo will be represented, along with a myriad of parenting and family resources.

This free event is produced by the Pleasant Hill/Walnut Creek Mothers' Club and Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District. Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Drive. For more information email preschoolfair@gmail.com. ♣



The Commonwealth Club of California presents...

Problems with progress— A historical perspective on the presidency

As the nation prepares to inaugurate the first African-American president, Americans wonder if our country can truly become colorblind. At its core, the story of America is the constant redefining of the ideas most central to the Constitution—liberty, freedom, and equality. How will Obama's victory shape American history? How far have we come as a result of this past election, and how much further do we still need to go? Join a quintessential American historian as he unveils the pitfalls and triumphs this election has delivered upon the American psyche.

Discussion takes place on Thursday, January 15, 2009 at Veterans Memorial Hall, 3780 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, CA 94549 (accessible via Lafayette BART station.) Reception at 6:00pm, program at 6:30pm.

Speakers are Leon Litwack, Pulitzer Prize Winner and Professor Emeritus of American History, University of California, Berkeley (ret.); Richard Thompson Ford, George E. Osborne Professor of Law, Stanford Law School (Invited); James Taylor, Associate Professor of Politics, University of San Francisco.

Tickets are \$12 for members, \$18 for non-members, \$7 for students. For tickets, visit commonwealthclub.org or call (415) 597-6705. Co-organized by the California Historical Society. ♣

Music in Pleasant Hill

Postponed from an earlier date, Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District and Community Concerts proudly present Steve Lucky and the Rhumba Bums at the Pleasant Hill Community Center on Friday, February 20.

This fun, lively, humorous "little big-band" show is a sure fire hit! According to Joe Getty, of radio's Armstrong & Getty Show, they put on "a show that matched the energy of the music. Steve Lucky and his guitarist, the stunning Carmen Getit, ought to be world famous. I have a new favorite live band: Steve Lucky and the Rhumba Bums."

See them here, live and in person at a price that can't be beat and without driving to the city or paying for parking!

Doors open at 7:15pm, showtime, 8pm. Tickets \$30 Gold Circle, \$20 Adults, \$18 Seniors & Children.

Location: Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Drive. Order tickets at 229-2710 or www.communityconcerts.com.



Our rockin' community! Events for January and February 2009

| Date | Event | Location | Organization | Contact |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Jan 3 | E-Waste Collection | Diablo Valley College | Electronic Waste Management | 866-335-3373 |
| Jan 10 | Pre-School & Parenting Fair | PH Community Center | PH/WC Mother's Club | 676-5200 |
| Jan 15 | Problems with Progress | Veterans Memorial Hall, Lafayette | Commonwealth Club of California | 415-597-6705 |
| Jan 16 | Lions Crab Feed | PH Community Center | Pleasant Hill Lions Club | 682-0896 |
| Jan 30 | Mayor's Breakfast | Hyatt Summerfield Suites | PH Chamber of Commerce | 687-0700 |
| Jan 30 | Sequoia kindergarten registration | Sequoia Elementary library | MDUSD | 682-8000 x 4000 |
| Jan 21 | Literacy Tutor Training | Project Second Chance office | PH Library | 927-3250 |
| Feb 9 | Super Student Secrets Workshop | PH Library | PH Library | 646-6434 |
| Feb 3 | Kindergarten Pre-registration | All MDUSD elementary schools | MDUSD | 682-8000 x 4000 |
| Feb 4 | Caring for Aging Parents | PH Library | PH Library | 646-6434 |
| Feb 12 | Valentine Programs | PH Library | PH Library | 646-6434 |
| Feb 5, 19 | Business Workshops | PH Library | PH Library | 646-6434 |
| Feb 20 | Music in Pleasant Hill | PH Community Center | PH Rec & Park District | 229-2710 |

Economic Development/Business News in 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 October 2008

Amanda Wilkenson

(Therapeutic/Relaxation Massage Therapy)
395 Civic Dr. "C"
925-354-8353

Auto Tak Import

(Used Car Sales)
3333 Vincent Rd., #207
408-859-3540

Blush Salon & Spa

1571 Oak Park Blvd.
925-280-1772

Delta Bay Networks, LLC

(Computer Network Support)
3478 Buskirk Ave.
925-978-6026

For Your Body & Spirit

(Massage Therapy)
395 Civic Dr. "C"
925-726-0300

Furniture Clearance Plus

651 Contra Costa Blvd.
925-676-6625

Giovanna Valera

(Silver Jewelry @ DVC Only)
321 Golf Club Rd.
925-609-7046

Healthful Hands

Healing Arts
56 Mayhew Way, Ste. B
925-852-5182

The Healing Touch Massage

395 Civic Dr. "C"
510-520-6407

Janine D. Monson, LCSW

(Psychotherapy/Counseling with Children)
3490 Buskirk Ave., Ste. A
925-588-6340

Jessica Muller

(Massage Therapy)
1573 Oak Park Blvd.
925-876-5305

Judy Skincare

(Skincare & Waxing)
1571 Oak Park Blvd.
415-516-6526

Michael Pierson

(Massage Therapy)
2367 Pleasant Hill Rd.
925-683-3140

Millanned Enterprise, LLC

(Used Auto Sales)
3333 Vincent Rd., #214
209-639-4300

Naomi Maldonado

(Massage Therapy)
1610 Oak Park Blvd., #2
925-943-2222

Quicksilver IT

(IT Consulting)
2255 Morello Ave., #123
510-701-4723

Quiznos

622 B Contra Costa Blvd.
925-689-8596

SAS Shoes

1924 Contra Costa Blvd.
925-676-2918

Sport Clips

(Haircuts for Men & Boys)
2360 Mounment Blvd., #1B
925-284-2222

Steven Black

(Spiritual Healing)
395 Civic Dr. "C"
925-726-0300

Tofu & BBQ

508 Q Contra Costa Blvd.
925-288-0005

Allied Fire Safety

(Mobile Inspection of Fire Extinguishers)
925-685-7434

Autumn Tattenham

Photography (On Location Children's Portraiture)
925-768-3720

CA Home Services

(Clean Out Homes & Offices)
925-899-5751

Even Maurice (Internet

Crafts/Tote Bags)
415-699-5174

Expect A Miracle Stones

(Selling of Stones)
925-906-9240

Helen Hsieh Designs

(Interior Design Service)
925-949-8598

New businesses November 2008

Co Co Pub Restaurant (Asian Restaurant)

508 N Contra Costa Blvd.

EI Ghonemy Group USA, Inc.

(Import/Export Goods)
3478 Buskirk Ave., #1000
925-287-6473

Inspiring Wellness

(Tai Chi Instructor & Nutrition)
395 Civic Dr., "C"
925-726-0300

Lenscrafters

2180 Contra Costa Blvd.
925-691-5055

L&L Hawaiian BBQ

60 Crescent Dr. "D"
925-681-3151

Moran Massage

395 Civic Dr. "C"
925-285-9655

Nicholas M. Fuller

(Massage Therapy)
2367 Pleasant Hill Rd.
209-613-1972

Oak Park Test Only

(Smog Test Only)
1901 Oak Park Blvd.
510-489-4252

Pleasant Hill Auto Repair

1901 Oak Park Blvd.
925-930-6334

Sheryl Hoye, LCSW

(Psychotherapy)
3490 Buskirk Ave "A"
925-330-0645

Sydney Chute

(Massage Therapy)
70 Doray Dr. #1
510-338-2001

Transforming Touch

(Acupuncture)
1916 Oak Park Blvd.
707-567-2624

Dirty Dirty Girl Clothing

(Online Retail)
925-783-6677

Extra Infielder-TJG Innovations (Internet Business)

925-930-9605

Knosh (Gift Baskets)

925-676-6003

LNC Source

(Wholesale Computer Parts)
925-671-2222

Business license renewals are due



The City reminds business owners that Pleasant Hill business licenses must be renewed in January to avoid costly penalties. Renewal applications were sent out from the City in December and need to be returned by January 31 to avoid penalties. If your business did not receive a renewal application, call 671-5234 and another one will be sent to you. If your business has closed or moved, sign and date the renewal application and send it back to Business Licensing at the City of Pleasant Hill, 100 Gregory Lane. ♣

City Meetings

JANUARY

| WHEN | WHAT | WHERE |
|----------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Thu 1 | City Hall Closed — New Year's Day Holiday | |
| Mon 5 7:30pm | City Council-Redevelopment Agency | Council Chambers |
| Wed 7 9:30am | Commission on Aging | City Hall Small Community Room |
| Wed 7 6:30pm | Civic Action Commission | City Hall Small Community Room |
| Thu 8 2:00pm | Zoning Administrator (Public Hearing) | Planning/Public Works Conference Room |
| Tue 13 6:00pm | Traffic Safety Commission | City Hall Community Room |
| Tue 13 7:30pm | Planning Commission (Public Hearing) | Council Chambers |
| Thu 15 5:00pm | Architectural Review Commission | City Hall Small Community Room |
| Mon 19 | City Hall Closed — Martin Luther King Birthday | |
| Thu 22 2:00pm | Zoning Administrator (Public Hearing) | Planning/Public Works Conference Room |
| Thu 22 7:00pm | Redevelopment Advisory Commission | City Hall Large Community Room |
| Mon 26 7:30pm | Redevelopment Agency-City Council | Council Chambers |
| Tue 27 7:30pm | Planning Commission (Public Hearing) | Council Chambers |
| Wed 28 7:00pm | Education/Schools Advisory Commission | City Hall Large Community Room |

FEBRUARY

| WHEN | WHAT | WHERE |
|----------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Wed 4 9:30am | Commission on Aging | City Hall Small Community Room |
| Wed 4 6:30pm | Civic Action Commission | City Hall Small Community Room |
| Mon 9 7:30pm | City Council-Redevelopment Agency | Council Chambers |
| Tue 10 6:00pm | Traffic Safety Commission | City Hall Community Room |
| Tue 10 7:30pm | Planning Commission (Public Hearing) | Council Chambers |
| Thu 12 | City Hall Closed — Lincoln's Birthday Holiday | |
| Mon 16 | City Hall Closed — Washington's Birthday Holiday | |
| Thu 19 5:00pm | Architectural Review Commission | City Hall Small Community Room |
| Mon 23 7:30pm | Redevelopment Agency-City Council | Council Chambers |
| Tue 24 7:30pm | Planning Commission (Public Hearing) | Council Chambers |
| Wed 25 7:00pm | Education/Schools Advisory Commission | City Hall Large Community Room |
| Thu 26 5:00pm | Zoning Administrator (Public Hearing) | Planning/Public Works Conference Room |
| Thu 26 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.ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us

CITY OFFICIALS

Mayor Michael G. Harris
Vice Mayor Karen S. Mitchoff

Councilmembers

David E. Durant
John Hanecak
Terri L. Williamson
June Catalano
Marty McInturf
Mark W. Celio

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 **Mar/Apr is February 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) 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

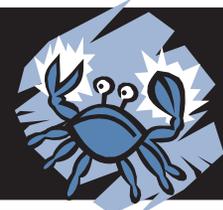
Inside this issue

| | |
|---|--------|
| Vice Mayor Sue Angeli retires | 1 |
| Treasurer Suzanne Salter retires | 1 |
| Community Awards winners | 1,3 |
| From the Beat | 2 |
| Critters in Pleasant Hill | 4 |
| Front yard landscaping requirements | 5 |
| Streetlights | 5 |
| Be prepared for storms | 6 |
| County moves offices to Ellinwood | 6 |
| CERT training | 7 |
| Foundations working for the community | 8 |
| Library programs for the New Year | 9 |
| Higher Education in Pleasant Hill | 10,11 |
| Kindergarten pre-registration | 11 |
| Chamber of Commerce launches new Web security program | 12, 13 |
| New president for Chamber of Commerce | 12 |
| Eco Page...recycling options | 14,15 |
| Restaurant review | 16 |
| What's happening in the community | 16,17 |
| New businesses | 18 |
| City Meetings | 19 |
| City Officials | 19 |
| Crab feeds | 20 |

'Tis the season for...

Crab Feeds!

Support these great causes.



LAW ENFORCEMENT
TORCH RUN
SPECIAL OLYMPICS
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

DONATION \$35

Door Prizes
Raffle / Auction
Seating is limited...
advance tickets required

Sponsorship
opportunities
available

Sat • Feb 21, 2009

Pleasant Hill Community Center • 320 Civic Dr

**PH Police Department Law
Enforcement Torch Run**

Pleasant Hill Police Association
cordially invites you to their 3rd annual

CRAB FEED

Benefiting Special Olympics
Northern California East Bay Region

Door prizes, raffle, and auction



5:00pm door opens
6:30pm dinner

Dinner menu
Crab, salad, bread,
pasta, dessert,
and coffee.

No Host beer, wine,
soda, bottled water,
No Host prawn bar.

Please—no
outside alcohol



Special Olympics

Buy your ticket NOW! Seating is limited. This event is selling out fast!

Tickets must be obtained in advance by contacting Gary Brown **288-4619**
No tickets will be sold at the door. Table reservations accepted for table of 8.



Fri • January 16, 2009

Pleasant Hill Community Center • 320 Civic Dr

Lions Club

of Pleasant Hill

Present their long-running, annual...

Crab Feed & Auction

No host bar 6:30pm, dinner 7:30pm

- ◆ dancing afterwards
- ◆ a great drawing of prizes
- ◆ and a silent auction.

100% of the proceeds, every single cent, goes to the many charities supported by the Lions. There are never **any** administration fees.

**tickets
\$40**

**For information
or tickets call
676-5859 or
682-0896, x11**



City of Pleasant Hill
100 Gregory Lane
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523-3323
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