

# the OUTLOOK



of Pleasant Hill

## Your City Government at work—A review of 2007

—June Catalano, City Manager



..... to all residents and business owners in Pleasant Hill.

This year the City Council will be adopting a new two-year budget for Fiscal Years 2008-09 and 2009-10, and we will provide detailed information on that in the July edition of the Outlook. In the

next issue of the Outlook we will discuss projects for the remainder of 2008.

### Highlights from 2007

Looking back at 2007, there have been many City accomplishments. Here are just a few of the many projects that City staff completed over the course of the year...

- In collaboration with AirCloud Communications, the City installed WiFi along Contra Costa Boulevard. Eventually this coverage will expand to include the entire city.
- The City created the “SEED” Team (Site Evaluation and Economic Development), an interdepartmental group of staff members, to prepare a data base of major non-residential sites in the community and to evaluate potential sites for economic development and redevelopment.

ment), an interdepartmental group of staff members, to prepare a data base of major non-residential sites in the community and to evaluate potential sites for economic development and redevelopment.

- The Redevelopment Agency negotiated and adopted two separate Agreements that will result in a new Friedmans Appliances store—twice the size of the existing store—and additional major tenant and shop space, all to be open by mid-2008.

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## City moves to weekly recycling beginning March 31

The City Council recently approved a new agreement with Allied Waste Services which will introduce weekly recycling for all Pleasant Hill residents and a revision of garbage rates to encourage more recycling and less waste going into the landfill.

The new garbage rates will take effect on April 1, 2008 and will depend on the size of your garbage cart. You will be given the opportunity to select one of four sizes – a 20, 32, 64 or 96-gallon cart. There will be no change to your brown recycling cart or the green waste cart.

These rate changes for garbage disposal and recycling are necessary to ensure that the City continues to meet at

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

\*Senior rates for existing customers with a 96-gallon cart who are now paying \$24.13 will continue to pay that amount after April 1, 2008.

least a 50% recycling rate, which is mandated by the State of California. The California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) has also asked the City to change the garbage rates to a more volume-based rate structure. In other words, those customers who

—continued on page 2



### NOTICE!

Business license renewals are due...details on page 10.

### A review of 2007—continued from page 1

■ Extensive work by the Redevelopment Advisory Commission and staff resulted in the Agency adopting a policy to provide additional affordable housing opportunities in the community by offering rental assistance to low-income families.

■ Business Licensing issued more than 4,000 licenses in 2007. This included 1,400 commercial businesses and approximately 2,400 home-based businesses.

■ The Police Department reported that serious crime decreased by 21% in Pleasant Hill during 2007. The Police also conducted Emergency Preparedness training sessions for city staff and will be updating the City's emergency policy this year.

■ The Building Division expedited approximately 1,430 building permits, including permits for the Morello Estates subdivision, El Tapatio Restaurant, and tenant improvements at the Crossroads Shopping Center.

#### The Engineering Division...

- Resurfaced almost 7.5 miles of city streets.
- Retrofitted almost 100 existing pedestrian ramps to conform to current federal accessibility standards.
- Worked with the Mt. Diablo Unified School District to reduce traffic congestion along Boyd Road at Sequoia Elementary and Middle schools.
- Secured over \$715,000 in Grant monies to subsidize seven new capital improvement projects.

#### The Maintenance Division...

- Proceeded with the redesign of 17 medians located on or near Contra Costa Boulevard with new landscaping.
- Contacted and worked with 425 residents living along City creeks and waterways to coordinate annual clean-up efforts.
- Completed the inspection and clean-up of all 1500 catch basins to keep storm water flowing and es-

tablished a program with Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control to mitigate threats from West Nile virus.

- Implemented a pothole repair program to keep streets safe and in prime condition.

#### The Planning Division...

- Was awarded the first annual 2007 Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Growing Smarter Together Award for the newly-completed Villa Montanaro Apartment Complex at the northeast corner of Buskirk and Coggins Drive.
- Drafted a condominium conversion ordinance requiring that physical improvements comply with current building codes and ensured that apartment rentals are maintained at a certain level in Pleasant Hill.
- Drafted new "Design Guidelines" which are intended to encourage quality, well-designed development throughout Pleasant Hill that enhances existing neighborhoods, creates identity, and improves the overall quality of life within the City. ♣

### City moves to weekly recycling —continued from page 1

generate more garbage (and less recycling) should pay more than those who generate less garbage.

Currently, 78% of Pleasant Hill customers have a 96-gallon cart for garbage and only 17% have either a 32 or 64-gallon cart. Those residents with a 96-gallon cart pay only \$1 more per month than those with a 32-gallon cart. This minimal difference in rates offers no incentive for residents to reduce their cart size.

However, with the introduction of weekly recycling, all residents should be able to divert recyclable materials from their garbage cart and

therefore reduce the need for the larger carts. The end result will be that most customers will either see a reduction in their monthly rate should they opt for the 32-gallon cart or a modest increase if they go with the 64-gallon cart.

The accompanying table outlines the new garbage rates.

Survey results have shown that these new rates are comparable to other cities in Contra Costa County and are below average for both the 64 and

96-gallon cart rates. The new rates also include a cost of living adjustment which would normally take effect on January 1 of each year but will not be introduced until the new rates go into effect on April 1, 2008.

Allied Waste Services will begin replacing carts on March 31, 2008. Over the next several months, AWS and the City of Pleasant Hill will provide additional information on the schedule for cart replacement. For more information contact Allied Waste Services at 685-4711 or the City of Pleasant Hill at 671-4602 or email Martin Nelis at [mnelis@ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us](mailto:mnelis@ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us). ♣



### 3rd grade students from Valhalla Elementary School hold mock City Council meeting

Thursday, December 6, 2007 was an historic day in Pleasant Hill as one hundred 3rd grade students from Valhalla Elementary School conducted their first ever Council Meeting in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Mayor Megan Bristow presided over the proceedings as the five Councilmembers, ably assisted by their staff, heard testimony from various members of the “Valhalla public” about a number of critical issues ranging from cookies at lunch to water fountains to having more theme days at school.

Mayor Bristow was joined on the dais by Councilmembers Megan Austin, Kole Kazda, Kayla Brooks and Sierra Birade. The five Councilmembers were supported by City Manager Marissa



St. Marseille, City Clerk Gabriela Joseph, City Attorney Jacob Ricafrente, Police Chief Alice Woo, Community Service Director Max Anderson, and Public Information Officer Langston Mendonsa.

The Council considered five agenda items and heard arguments for and against each motion from other members of the 3rd grade class. There was much debate and discussion on whether cookies or a salad bar should be added to the daily lunch menu at school. Strong arguments were presented in favor of and against both proposals, and the Council was divided in their opinion on both items. On a split vote, the Council voted against the cookies and in favor of having the salad bar, with the Mayor casting the deciding vote. After the meeting, Mayor Bristow maintained that her vote was in no way influenced by the fact that her Mom was in the audience.

In other matters, the Council voted in favor of more water fountains throughout the school, denied a request to grant 4th and 5th graders P.E. on Friday afternoons, and, surprisingly, decided against introducing more “Spirit Theme Days” at the school. ♣



### Letter to homeowners from the City Building Crew

#### NEW BUILDING CODES NOW ENFORCED

Just a reminder—the new building codes have taken effect as of January 1, 2008. Working with new codes can be challenging, but if we all work together we will make the transition as simple as possible. Here are just a few examples of code changes that have occurred:

CODE	OLD (2001)	NEW (2007)
Minimum stair run	9 inches	10 inches
Maximum stair rise	8 inches	7.75 inches
Guardrails required	When more than 30 inches above grade or floor, then 36 inches high	When more than 40 inches high except side of stairs, then 34–38 inches high
Bedroom window egress	44 inches maximum to sill	44 inches maximum to opening
Attic access	22 inches x 30 inches	20 inches x 30 inches
kitchen clearance	Not required	36 inches clear passage in kitchens at counter fronts or at appliances

As seen in these examples, the changes are not dramatic but necessary. Hopefully, the contractors working in our city have already obtained their copies of the new codes to make your project run smoothly. Any homeowner with questions can obtain this information through the International Code Council (ICC)—1-888-422-7233 or call one of the field inspectors for clarification at 671-5200.

#### CONTAINERS

A container or storage unit is allowed for up to 10 calendar days, or for a longer period if there is a grading or building permit for construction on the site and a zoning permit has been issued for the container or storage unit.

All containers are to be stored on your own property. Maintain clearances to sidewalks and public right-of-way. If special circumstances arise, encroachment permits from Public Works will be required. REMEMBER, these units are for temporary use only.

For further information, contact the Planning Division at 671-5209 or Code Enforcement 671-5207.

Sincerely,

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





### Ellinwood Creek gets much needed improvements

Friends of Pleasant Hill Creeks would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped make Ellinwood Creek in Pleasant Hill a much better place during 2007.

Much has been done to improve this riparian habitat and reduce the amount of trash and non-native plant species. But there is still a long way to go before they can call it mission accomplished.

This year will include another Earth Day event with the Boy Scouts in April and weekly creek work days every Saturday. Their next meeting will be February 6, 2008 at 7pm in the Large Conference Room at City Hall, 100 Gregory Lane.

If you would like to help, you can contact them at: [fophcreeks@land4urbanwildlife.org](mailto:fophcreeks@land4urbanwildlife.org) or visit their web site to find out more about their activities ([www.fophcreeks.land4urbanwildlife.org](http://www.fophcreeks.land4urbanwildlife.org)). You can also sign up to be notified about creek-related issues and information on the weekly volunteer events. ♣

### Community Garden is starting to take shape

Students of the Gardening Program of Mt. Diablo Adult Education are teaming up with the City of Pleasant Hill and the Contra Costa Central Sanitary District to create a beautiful, water-conserving garden at the Pleasant Hill Adult Education Center on Santa Barbara Road, next to the Pleasant Hill Middle School.

It will serve as a demonstration garden using healthy garden practices (no pesticides), water conservation and recycling methods, and drought-tolerant and native plantings. Other participants in this project include the Boy Scouts, Girl

Scouts, Contra Costa Master Gardeners, DVC's adaptive horticulture class, neighbors, and other interested volunteers.



The kickoff of the all-volunteer project was held on Community Service Day, September 15, when volunteers met to start a path through the garden, mix mulch into the soil—and found out how really compacted and difficult the clay soil was to work. Recent work parties have been able to finish several paths, prepare the soil for planting, and plant the first beds in the first phase of the project, which may be completed late next year.

When you drive or bike down this road in the future,



you will find a lovely oasis. Students will be able to use the garden to learn about many subjects. Middle School children will find a more welcoming path to their school. The area will be wheelchair accessible. As a demonstration garden, you might get some great ideas for your own low moisture, low maintenance landscaping. Come, join them! This will be a garden for all of Pleasant Hill!

They need lots of help with funding, sharing of talents, donation of plants, and just plain working the soil. You can call the school at 937-1530 or email: [phecgarden@prodigy.net](mailto:phecgarden@prodigy.net) if you would like to be a part of this grass-roots project. ♣

## Garden Park Apartments offers safe haven for struggling families

Permanent, supportive housing describes a special place to live, and Garden Park Apartments is much more than a complex of apartments. It is a community with onsite staff including a full-time live-in property manager, around-the-clock desk clerks, a fulltime licensed services director, and a part-time volunteer coordinator.

The Garden Park Apartments is also blessed to have the support and backing of 25 interdenominational faith communities and the support of the City of Pleasant Hill.

Families eligible to live at Garden Park Apartments have been through hard times. When they come to the Apartments, they are homeless, have an adult member with a disability, and have very low incomes. The average household earns less than \$9,000 per year. They have been homeless, often because of struggles with physical illness, mental illness, and/or addiction to alcohol/drugs. The Garden Park Apartments is a family place, so children make up over half of the tenants. These children have been through many challenges and difficulties in their short lives.

The cornerstone of permanent supportive housing is the on-site support services. Studies show that individuals and families who have special needs are better able to break the cycle of homelessness when the housing includes support. The support staff at Garden Park Apartments are funded 100% with donations and community grants. They also welcome anyone who wants to join their cadre of dedicated and talented volunteers who provide homework support and tutoring to adults and youth and engage the youngest tenants in storytime and emerging-reader activities. Volunteers also furnish and equip units for new families and provide the bulk of landscaping services to the site.

Contra Costa Interfaith Housing is a 501C(3) non profit, so all donations are



Sara Marsh, Services Director, speaking with Garden Park families.

tax deductible. Your support also saves tax dollars due to our effective prevention of many problems. It is estimated that Garden Park Apartment programs save over \$1.5 million per year in emergency, child protective, criminal justice, and other service costs.

If you are interested in volunteering at Garden Park Apartments or would like to make a financial contribution to keep this project going please contact Louise Bourassa, Executive Director, at 299-1067 or send a contribution to Contra Costa Interfaith Housing, 978 Second Street, Suite 240, Lafayette, CA 94549. Thank you for helping them help others. ♣

## Hospice is there for you

Hospice of the East Bay (formerly Hospice and Palliative Care of Contra Costa) 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, and at 350 John Muir Parkway, Brentwood.

### Adult Support Groups/Classes

#### ■ Widow and Widowers' Support

Pleasant Hill —  
Monday evenings, 6:00–8:00pm  
February 4–March 24, 2008  
Brentwood—  
Wednesday evenings, 6:00–8:00pm  
February 6–March 26, 2008

#### ■ Adults Who Have Lost a Parent

Pleasant Hill—  
Wednesday evenings, 6:00–8:00pm  
January 16–March 5, 2008

### Adult Grief Classes

#### ■ Understanding Grief

Pleasant Hill—  
Tuesday evening, 6:30–8:30pm  
January 29, 2008

### Children and Teens Support Group:

#### ■ Footsteps

Pleasant Hill—  
Tuesday evenings, 5:15–6:30pm  
January 29–March 11, 2008  
(off February 19)

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-threatening 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](http://www.hospiceeastbay.org). ♣



## Around our community....

### Pleasant Hill Community Foundation celebrates more than two decades of serving the community

During this time the Foundation has awarded 221 grants totaling over \$250,000.



In 1986 five Pleasant Hill community leaders formed the Pleasant Hill Foundation, later renamed the Pleasant Hill Community Foundation (PHCF). The original purpose was to encourage donations which would be used for the development and support of community programs. Five more members were later added to the board of directors. In October of 1987 they held their first fundraising dinner, during which they agreed on three main goals:

- Raise money for community projects.
- Be a clearinghouse for other nonprofit projects.
- Start an endowment program where the profits of the raised funds could be used for future causes.

The Foundation runs the Annual Pleasant Hill Sun Valley Golf Classic which has raised over \$100,000 for various community projects over the past seven years.

As well as annually requesting gifts from the public, the Foundation has spearheaded special projects. During 1990 and 1991 they sold and placed 687 personal tiles in the new Pleasant Hill City Hall walkways and patio. A gazebo and trellis were constructed from the proceeds.

In 1993 and 1994 PHCF raised over \$40,000 for playground apparatus. During 2002 and 2003 they worked with the Pleasant Hill Tennis Club to raise \$39,000. However, the largest project to date has been the raising of \$174,623 for the Sprayground construction at Pleasant Hill Aquatic Center.

The Foundation recently announced the 2007 Youth Grant Awards for the following projects:

- College Park High School for the Stadium Project, Every 15 Minutes, and Girls Tennis Team.
- Pleasant Hill Dolphins Swim Club for new timing mechanisms.
- Pleasant Hill Police Department for High School Garage Bands at the Lake.
- Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District for a new Web site run by Teen Council, Intergenerational Culinary Arts, and a new engine for the Pleasant Hill Express Train.
- Valley View Middle School for the Prowler newsletter.
- S.T.A.G.E. Troupe for a new microphone.

The proceeds from the 7th Annual Pleasant Hill Sunvalley Golf Classic held last May contributed to the more than \$16,000 distributed in these grant awards.

The Foundation will be accepting proposals for its Community Grant Awards in the spring of 2008. The 8th Annual Pleasant Hill Sunvalley Golf Classic will be held May 12, 2008. Please join them in supporting the youth of Pleasant Hill. ♣

PLEASANT HILL POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION  
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE

### 4th Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run "CRAB FEED"

A fundraising event benefiting  
Special Olympics Northern California  
East Bay Region

Saturday, February 16, 2008

Tickets now on sale!

Donation: \$40 per person

Tickets must be obtained in advance

No tickets will be sold at the door

Table reservations accepted - 8 per table ONLY

Seating is limited. This event will sell out

Contact: (925) 408-4134 or email at  
jpratt@ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us

Doors open at 5:00 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm

Where: Pleasant Hill Community Center  
320 Civic Dr. Pleasant Hill

Door Prizes - Raffle - Live & Silent Auction



LAW ENFORCEMENT  
TORCH RUN  
SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA



Special Olympics  
Northern California



### Red Cross Blood Center open for additional hours

The American Red Cross Blood Center in Pleasant Hill has extended its hours on a regular basis. The center opens its doors from 7am to 7:30pm on Monday through Thursday, and 7:30am to 3pm on Friday and the weekend. The additional hours have been added as blood donations typically slow down during year-end holidays and the New Year period, and the Red Cross hopes these new hours will make donation easier to fit into busy schedules.

Research shows that only 38% of the public is eligible to give blood, and a minority, less than 8% of these individuals, actually donate blood each year, making it difficult to maintain an adequate blood supply. The additional hours will allow the Red Cross to accommodate 100 more blood donors each week. The Red Cross states that every blood donation can help to save three lives.

The center is located at 140 Gregory Lane across from City Hall. Blood donation appointments can be made by calling 800.GIVE.LIFE (800-448-3543) or online at [www.BeADonor.com](http://www.BeADonor.com). ♣

## Service Clubs supporting Pleasant Hill

### Pleasant Hill Lions Club Crabfeed fundraiser

The local Lions Club in Pleasant Hill was founded in 1952 and was the first service club in the city. At the Community Service Day in September, Lions members cooked breakfast for over 400 volunteers serving pancakes, sausages, fruit and drinks. Matt Maksel flipped more than 800 of the “the best pancakes in town.”

The Lions Club annual Crab Feed will be held on Friday, January 18, 2008. For tickets call Don Flaskerud at 676-5859 or Dave Peters at 682-0896. The event includes dancing and all the money raised is donated to programs involving the visual and hearing impaired in our community and worldwide.

A wonderful fact about our local Lions Club and Lions Clubs around the world is that 100% of the money raised or donated goes back into our community and projects around the world. There are never administration costs involved with any donations or proceeds from a fundraiser—and it’s been that way with all Lions around the world since their founding in 1917.

The Pleasant Hill Lions Club meets every Tuesday morning for breakfast from 7:30-8:30am. ♣

### 50-Year celebration for University Women

We’re celebrating! The Pleasant Hill Branch of American Association of University Women is celebrating its 50 years of leadership in education and in the community. On February 9, 2008 the branch will host a luncheon at the Contra Costa Country Club in Pleasant Hill.

During its many years in the community, the Pleasant Hill branch has sponsored Candidates Night; attended legislative conventions in Sacramento; raised thousands of dollars for the Education Foundation for Women; donated over \$50,000 to local scholarships and sent twenty young middle school girls to Tech Trek - a program to study math and science at Mills College for a week during the summer.

Any women who have either an Associate of Arts degree or Bachelor of Arts degree are eligible for membership. Prospective members and past members are encouraged to join the branch for their gala celebration of February 9. Call Margi Alkire at (925) 827-2940 for reservations, and for membership information please call Diane Gartner at (925) 798-0798. ♣

### Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship

Applications for 2009-2010 Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarships are now available from the PH Rotary Club.

The scholarships, designed to further international understanding and goodwill, provide for study abroad in more than 150 countries. Some 800 scholarships of various types will be available worldwide.

Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholars act as “ambassadors of goodwill.” Through appearances before Rotary clubs and districts, schools, civic organizations, and other forums, the scholars represent their homelands and work to further international understanding.

**Academic-year** Ambassadorial Scholarships, for one academic year abroad, provide a flat grant of US\$23,000 or its equivalent. **Multi-year** Ambassadorial Scholarships are flat grants of US\$11,500 per year for two years toward the cost of a degree program abroad. Also available are **Cultural** Ambassadorial Scholarships which provide funding for 3 or 6 months of intensive language study and cultural immersion in another country and are flat grants of US\$10,000 and US\$15,000 respectively.

For more information and an application about any one of the above scholarships, please contact Tom Cooper (943-5343) or Ken Jacobson (930-9941). Applications must be received by July 31. Interested students may also want to consult the Rotary web site at [www.rotary.org/en/StudentsAndYouth/EducationalPrograms/AmbassadorialScholarships/Pages/ridefault.aspx](http://www.rotary.org/en/StudentsAndYouth/EducationalPrograms/AmbassadorialScholarships/Pages/ridefault.aspx) where the application may be downloaded in English.

The Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship program is the world’s largest privately-sponsored international scholarship program. Focused on humanitarian service, personal diplomacy, and academic excellence, it has sponsored more than 38,000 Rotary Scholars abroad since it began in 1947. ♣

### Lieutenant John Pratt retires after 27 years of dedicated service

The Mayor of Pleasant Hill presented 27-year veteran of the Police Department, John Pratt, with a City Proclamation at the City Council meeting on December 17, 2007. John began his career with the department as Police Officer in December 1980 and rose through the ranks to Lieutenant. John also obtained a Masters degree in Public Administration while serving on the force.

He has been actively involved in the Special Olympics as the Police Department Liaison to the Law Enforcement Torch Run since 1997, organizing local fund-raising events that generated over \$415,000, and served as the Chairperson for the 2003 International Special Olympics Conference in San Francisco.

As a result of his dedication to the Special Olympics program, he earned the John Carion Memorial “Unsung Hero” Award, Pleasant Hill’s Community Plus Award, and was inducted into the Special Olympics Northern California Hall of Fame. ♣



“Police Chief Peter Dunbar presents Lieutenant Pratt with a plaque bearing all of the badges worn by him during his 27 years of service”



### Dennis Donaghu takes over as Chair at PHR&PD

On December 6, 2007, the Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District Board members unanimously elected Dennis Donaghu as Board Chair for 2008. Karen Mitchoff will serve as Vice Chair and the Board's newest member, Joe Hurd, will serve as Secretary. Donaghu joined the Board in January 2006. He and his wife Faye of Donaghu Graphic Designs, have lived in Pleasant Hill since 1972.

Donaghu takes over the seat vacated by Sherry Sterrett, who was recently named Board President of the Year by California Special Districts Association. "Sherry did an excellent job as Board Chair," said Donaghu. "She will be a hard act to follow."

Sterrett summarized 2007 as an outstanding year, including the Sprayground project completion; the many successful classes, sports programs, and community events; plus the beginning of the new Senior Center planning, financing, and construction.

Donaghu said that he is looking forward to the official grand opening of the Sprayground at Pleasant Hill Aquatic Park in the spring. He is also gearing up for a new challenge to find a way to fund a new Senior Center for the community. "Thanks to Tom and Ruby MacDonald, owners of three retirement communities in Pleasant Hill (The Chateau Pleasant Hill, Chateau II, and Chateau III), we have a set of plans in place, and now the most important part is a funding mechanism," he said. ♣



### Have breakfast with the Mayor

The Pleasant Hill Mayor will speak on the State of the City and his plans for 2008 at the Mayor's Breakfast on Friday, January 25 at 7:30am, at the Hyatt Summerfield Suites, 2611 Contra Costa Boulevard.

The breakfast is sponsored by the Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce. Tickets are \$28 and can be purchased at their office or reserved by calling 687-0700 by January 22. Reserve now—this is a sellout event!

### International Jewish Film Festival comes to PH

The Contra Costa International Jewish Film Festival will be held March 1–7, 2008 at the Pleasant Hill CineArts theater. This is the 13th anniversary of the largest Jewish cultural event in the Contra Costa/Tri-Valley region. The lineup includes nine Northern California and/or East Bay premiers, including many award winners. For schedules of screenings as well as ticket prices and ordering, please go to [www.eastbayjewishfilm.org](http://www.eastbayjewishfilm.org) or [www.jfed.org](http://www.jfed.org). ♣

### Preschool & Parenting Fair January 12

The Pleasant Hill Community Center will be the site of the 10th annual Preschool & Parenting Fair on Saturday, January 12, from 9am to noon. More than 40 preschools located in Pleasant Hill, Martinez, Walnut Creek, Concord, Lafayette, and Alamo will be represented, along with many parenting and family resources.

This free event is produced by the Pleasant Hill/Walnut Creek Mothers' Club and Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District. For more information email [preschoolfair@gmail.com](mailto:preschoolfair@gmail.com). ♣

### PH Senior Center—a great place to be 50 plus

The Senior Center is hosting a very lively program in 2008 for persons 50 years and over. In addition to a great family pancake breakfast on every first Sunday, there will be "Taste of the Vine" social on January 11 or the free "Friday Flick" on February 15.

The popular trip program is open to everyone (non-seniors or non-members accompanying a senior pay an additional \$5) and offers a wide variety of local, national, and international trips for every budget and lifestyle. One-day excursions include Casino and Mystery Trips, as well as opportunities to sightsee or attend shows, and there are Overnight Trips and Air & Sea Trips with new destinations planned monthly.

For information on seniors 50 plus activities, contact the Pleasant Hill Senior Center at 798-8788; for trip information, call 798-8747. ♣

### Music in Pleasant Hill returns with Tom Rigney and Flambeau

Community Concerts and Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District will jumpstart the new year with Tom Rigney and Flambeau at the Community Center on January 12. Rigney is a Bay Area native who lights up the night with his electrifying violin-playing. He and his band Flambeau won Best Cajun/Zydeco Band of 2004 from the West Coast Blues Hall of Fame.

Local Chef Lesley Stiles (of the Farmers' Market) will prepare light refreshments available for purchase. Doors open at 7:15pm, and the show begins at 8:00pm. Gold Circle seating is \$35; adults \$25, and seniors/children are admitted for \$18. For tickets call 229-2710 or [www.communityconcerts.com](http://www.communityconcerts.com). ♣







## Busy season at the Library

### Children's programs

Wednesday morning **Toddler Time** at 11am at the Pleasant Hill Library is bursting at the seams and is adding an additional day for Toddler Time. Beginning Friday, January 10 at 10am they will offer a second storytime session for children ages 2-3½ attending with a parent or other caregiver. This will be a repeat of the regular Wednesday morning program. No registration is required.

Feel the Love! During the month of February children are invited to decorate a Valentine to their favorite book or story character. Valentine blanks will be available for pick up beginning January 24. Take it home to decorate and return it to the library for display.


The Library is offering a Valentine's Day program for children grades 2-5. Join them on Monday, February 11 for a fun evening of stories and crafts, 7:00-7:45pm. Register at 925-646-6434.


### Teen program SAT Essay workshop


High school students are invited to a free workshop about writing the essay for the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) on Wednesday, February 20 at 6:30pm. The workshop will give students the experience of writing a 25-minute essay under timed conditions, teach them what essay readers are looking for, and introduce them to strategies for writing the SAT essay. A representative of Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions will conduct the workshop. This free program will last about 75 minutes. Registration is required. Sign up at the library starting Monday, January 21, 2008.


### Online music and video now available

The Contra Costa County Library is pleased to introduce **four new databases** of streaming audio and video selections, delivering music and theatrical content directly to customers via the Internet. These easy-to-use databases are accessible online from home or office computers and at all the County community libraries.

 **Classical Music** Library is the world's largest multi-label database of Classical music recordings for listening and learning in libraries.

 **Smithsonian Global Sound** is a virtual encyclopedia of the world's musical and aural traditions. The database includes an extraordinary array of more than 35,000 individual tracks of music, spoken word, and natural and human-made sounds.

 **African American Song** brings 50,000 tracks of jazz, blues, gospel, and other forms of African American musical expression to the ears of library customers.

 **Theatre in Video** contains more than 250 of the world's most important plays, together with more than 100 video documentaries, online in streaming video—more than 500 hours in all

For more information about online services contact the Pleasant Hill Library or go online at <http://ccclib.org>. ♣

## Plan ahead for the winter storms

### Sandbags

Now that winter rains are here, you may be worried about flooding on your property. The City will have sandbag stations available again this winter for residents to use during the storm season. Three "fill-your-own" sandbag stations are available from November through March:

- City Hall parking lot on Trelany Road (100 Gregory Lane)
- Pleasant Hill Community Center parking lot on Civic Drive, at the northwest corner of the parking lot
- Monticello and Oak Park Boulevard (in the vacant lot across from library)

These sandbag stations are stocked with a shovel, a large pile of sand, and empty sandbags. The sandbags are free; Pleasant Hill residents are asked to take only what is needed, with a suggested limit of 10 bags per household.



In the event of a major storm or flooding emergency, the City, along with CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) volunteers, will prepare sandbags that are ready to use. Prior to a major storm City Maintenance staff will deliver the ready-to-use sandbag pallets to four areas throughout the community. Sign boards will be placed along the street to direct residents to the sandbag stations.

Residents who need special assistance can contact the City Maintenance Division at 925-671-4646 for more information.

### Winter storm tracking

Winter weather reports can be found on the City's website, by clicking the red box labeled "Weather Watch." Here you'll find a summary of the National Weather Service forecast, including weather watches, warnings, and advisories. It's a complement to other sources, such as newspapers, radio, TV, and online, which also provide weather tracking information.

### Storm drains

During the winter months, the storm drain system is often filled to capacity with run-off from rain. To prevent flooding in your neighborhood, it's especially important to keep leaves and other debris out of the streets to avoid clogging the storm drains. Keep an eye on the streets, gutters, catch basins, culverts, and drainage ditches in your area to make sure that they remain clean and clear of debris. If you have concerns about drainage in your neighborhood, call the Maintenance Division at 925-671-4646. ♣

## Pleasant Hill welcomes new businesses...

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

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

### New businesses in October 2007

**Ameritrafic** (Online Traffic School)  
1932 Contra Costa Blvd.  
925-980-0562

**BC Structural Bodywork**  
(Structural Bodywork)  
2255 Morello Ave., #107  
925-876-1519

**BG Hobbee**  
(Hobby Model, Kits, Tools)  
234 Golf Club Rd.  
925-798-5133

**Dan Nash Massage**  
1610 Oak Park Blvd., #2  
925-934-5088

**Glenn Rosner** (Massage Therapy)  
395 Civic Drive, "C"  
925-808-9925

**Linda X. Wu** (Massage)  
91 Gregory Ln., #12  
510-827-0993

**Makspeed Motors**  
(Retail Automotive Sales)  
3333 Vincent Rd., #218  
408-667-0539

**Melinda M. Valdez**  
(Chiropractic Wellness)  
1610 Oak Park Blvd., #2  
925-934-5088

**Paramount Financial, Inc.**  
(Mortgage Brokerage)  
140 Mayhew Way, #902  
925-627-2111

**Pleasant Hill Grocery Outlet**  
1671 Contra Costa Blvd.  
925-676-3660

**Serenity Garden Spa**  
(Massage Therapy)  
91 Gregory Ln., #12  
925-413-4961

**Sichuan Fortune House**  
(Chinese Food)

41 Woodsworth Ln.  
925-686-9828

**Styles by Marilyn** (Hair Stylist)  
1881 Contra Costa Blvd.  
925-686-4911

**Super Hair Cut** (Beauty Salon)  
508 Contra Costa Blvd, K-1  
925-246-9393

**Tracy Tucker** (Massage Therapy)  
2367 Pleasant Hill Rd.  
209-505-1924

**Weatherbee Corporation**  
(Computer Design & Consulting)  
1800 Oak Park Blvd, "D1"  
925-207-7549

**Amused Arts** (Online Art Gallery/  
Photography Service)  
510-453-5097

**Bay City Tech**  
(Field/Mobile IT Consulting)  
925-300-5707

**Brian Tudor Productions**  
(Production Company)  
951-237-6116

**Champlin Wireless Communica-  
tions** (Rental of 2-Way Radios)  
415-990-7788

**Dolce Lifetime Events** (Event Plan-  
ning/Wedding Consultation)  
912-223-0082

**God's Art**  
(Inspirational Greeting Cards)  
925-691-8040

**Hypocenter Solutions**  
(Technology Consulting)  
925-285-0276

**Interior** (Residential Interior/  
Exterior Design)  
925-349-9086

**Wittles & Squittles Pet Sitting**  
(Pet Sitting & Dog Walking)  
925-209-4769

### New businesses in November 2007

**Carrie's Sports, LLC**  
321 Golf Club Rd.  
510-573-3828 (Athletic Develop-  
ment Camp @ DVC)

**Hair Design by Shelley**  
(Cosmetologist)  
101 Gregory Ln., #24  
925-689-6642

**Hollywood Nails**  
100 Longbrook Way, #12  
925-682-2011

**Icon Motors** (Auto Sales)  
3333 Vincent Rd.  
925-939-3998

**Jan K. Tait** (Massage Therapy)  
1610 Oak Park Blvd., #2  
925-286-0968

**Ksh Co.** (Used Auto Dealer)  
171 Mayhew Way, #225  
925-766-6223

**Lisa Ferrer** (Aroma Therapy, Energy  
Work, Healing)  
395 Civic Dr., Suite C  
925-497-2529

**Lumidial** (Equipment Sales)  
61 Chilpancingo Pkwy.  
800-441-3034

**Renee Sherman**  
(Massage Therapist)  
140 Mayhew Way, #100  
925-852-5182

**Spaulding Sports**  
(Personal Training/Nutrition)  
2395 Pleasant Hill Road  
925-207-7714

**Yumiko Bishop, LE** (Electrolysis)  
1630 Contra Costa Blvd.  
925-478-9990

**Be Bop A Lula Marketing**  
(Internet Sales)  
925-945-7096

**Info Quest Solutions**  
(Software Consulting)  
510-385-0080

**Margate Photography**  
925-768-7781

**MK Detailing** (Car Detailing)  
925-876-8460

**Orchid Gulch**  
(Plants/Flowers/Orchid Sales)  
925-818-3600

**Singapuragirl USA** (Leather  
Bracelets, Anklets &  
Accessories)  
415-613-2308

**Title Nine Eleven & Associates**  
(Consulting-Title & Escrow)  
925-9344-5851

### 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
<b>Tue 1</b>	<b>NEW YEAR'S DAY—CITY HALL CLOSED</b>	
<b>Wed 2</b> 9:00am	Commission on Aging	City Hall Small Community Room
<b>Wed 2</b> 2:00pm	Zoning Administrator (Public Hearing)	Planning/Public Works Conference Room
<b>Wed 2</b> 6:30pm	Civic Action Commission	City Hall Small Community Room
<b>Thu 3</b> 5:00pm	Architectural Review Commission	City Hall Small Community Room
<b>Tue 8</b> 6:00pm	Traffic Safety Commission	City Hall Community Room
<b>Tue 8</b> 7:30pm	Planning Commission (Public Hearing)	Council Chambers
<b>Mon 14</b> 7:30pm	City Council-Redevelopment Agency	Council Chambers
<b>Wed 16</b> 2:00pm	Zoning Administrator (Public Hearing)	Planning/Public Works Conference Room
<b>Thu 17</b> 5:00pm	Architectural Review Commission	City Hall Small Community Room
<b>Mon 21</b>	<b>MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY—CITY HALL CLOSED</b>	
<b>Tue 22</b> 7:30pm	Planning Commission (Public Hearing)	Council Chambers
<b>Wed 23</b> 7:00pm	Education/Schools Advisory Commission	City Hall Small Community Room
<b>Wed 24</b> 7:00pm	Redevelopment Advisory Commission	City Hall Large Community Room
<b>Mon 28</b> 7:30pm	Redevelopment Agency-City Council	Council Chambers

# FEBRUARY

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
<b>Mon 4</b> 7:30pm	City Council-Redevelopment Agency	Council Chambers
<b>Wed 6</b> 9:00am	Commission on Aging	City Hall Small Community Room
<b>Wed 6</b> 2:00pm	Zoning Administrator (Public Hearing)	Planning/Public Works Conference Room
<b>Wed 6</b> 6:30pm	Civic Action Commission	City Hall Small Community Room
<b>Thu 7</b> 5:00pm	Architectural Review Commission	City Hall Small Community Room
<b>Tue 12 &amp; Mon 18</b>	<b>PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY—CITY HALL CLOSED PRESIDENT WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY—CITY HALL CLOSED</b>	
<b>Tue 19</b> 6:00pm	Traffic Safety Commission	City Hall Large Community Room
<b>Tue 19</b> 7:30pm	Planning Commission (Public Hearing)	Council Chambers
<b>Wed 20</b> 2:00pm	Zoning Administrator (Public Hearing)	Planning/Public Works Conference Room
<b>Thu 21</b> 5:00pm	Architectural Review Commission	City Hall Small Community Room
<b>Mon 25</b> 7:30pm	Redevelopment Agency-City Council	Council Chambers
<b>Tue 26</b> 7:30pm	Planning Commission (Public Hearing)	Council Chambers
<b>Wed 27</b> 7:00pm	Education/Schools Advisory Commission	City Manager's Conference Room
<b>Thu 28</b> 7:00pm	Redevelopment Advisory Commission	City Hall Large Community Room



### CITY OF PLEASANT HILL

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

#### CITY OFFICIALS

Mayor John Hanecak  
Vice Mayor Suzanne Angeli

#### Councilmembers

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

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

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

#### CITY HALL HOURS

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



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

**PUBLISHED ON RECYCLED PAPER**



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

**COVER: Lake at award winning City Hall.**

#### Important Phone Numbers

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



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## Pleasant Hill's past explored in new book Local native pens pictorial history on Pleasant Hill's vibrant past

Did you know that wineries once abounded in Pleasant Hill? Did you know that part of Pleasant Hill was once known as "Sparkle?" Do you know which hill is allegedly the hill that gave the community its name?

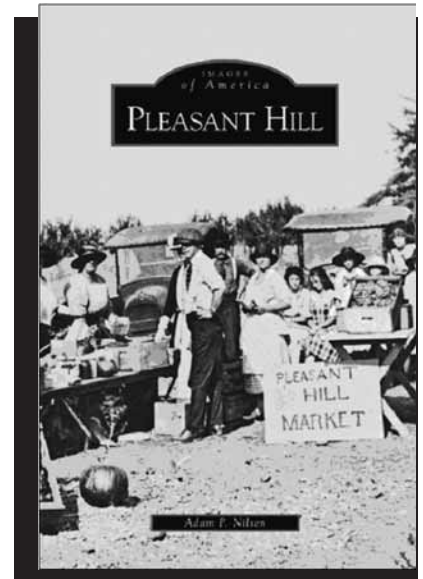
Adam Nilsen, Pleasant Hill native and historian, answers these questions and more about Pleasant Hill's intriguing past in a brand new pictorial history book.

Nilsen hopes that "this book will leave the impression that the city's fascinating history is also an important part of its identity. He also hopes that his book will encourage the appreciation and preservation of the remaining historic places and areas in Pleasant Hill that make this community unique."

Highlights of Pleasant Hill:

- Features images not only from local historical societies and businesses, but also from the photo albums of Pleasant Hill residents, never before seen by the public
- Contains little-known facts about Pleasant Hill
- Gives vignettes showing the variety of things that brought people to Pleasant Hill
- Traces Pleasant Hill's growth through engaging maps

Available at area bookstores, independent retailers, and online retailers, or through Arcadia Publishing at (888)-313-2665 or [www.arcadiapublishing.com](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com).



*Adam P. Nilsen is a history researcher at the Oakland Museum of California. A Pleasant Hill native, he holds degrees from Stanford University and New York University in cultural anthropology. He is a member of the Pleasant Hill Historical Society.*



**City of Pleasant Hill**  
100 Gregory Lane  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523-3323  
[www.pleasanthill.ca.gov](http://www.pleasanthill.ca.gov)



The City Hall staff  
wishes everyone a  
happy and prosperous  
New Year!

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