Chevron’s “Fuel Your School” program, celebrating its 10th anniversary, continues to inspire students and support local public teachers. Through the program, 15 schools in the Pleasanton Unified School District received nearly $50,000 to fund 58 classroom projects.

Chevron regularly partners with community stakeholders that specialize in the areas of education, training and economic development to build programs that address social gaps, build competencies and enable continued U.S. global competitiveness. Chevron’s Fuel Your School program -- part of the company’s overall support of education -- has helped raise more than $48 million for U.S. classrooms since 2010.

“Preparing the next generation of problem-solvers is essential to building a world where energy is affordable, reliable and ever-cleaner,” said Nathan Rearick, Chevron’s steward of the Fuel Your School program. “The program is part of Chevron’s overall support for education, which has totaled over $480 million worldwide since 2013 helping to provide teachers with the tools to prepare students for the technical jobs of the future.”

Our Board of Directors and staff recently completed a productive 2020 planning session at member winery Concannon Vineyards. Under the leadership of our 2020 Chair Randy Brown, we have set some exciting goals that you can learn more about by attending our Business and Installation Luncheon on Wednesday, January 29 at The Club at Ruby Hill.

We have much to be thankful for in having the opportunity to work, live and raise a family in the City of Pleasanton. Our quality of life didn’t just happen overnight. Many leaders before us knew the importance of a strong business community, excellent schools, abundant housing and a safe community. 2020 will be a defining year for our future. With our Mayor Jerry Thorne and Council Members Karla Brown and Jerry Pentin terming out, the majority of our City Council

Chevron’s Fuel Your School program has helped raise more than $48 million for U.S. classrooms since 2010.
Small-town business man Randy Brown to chair Chamber Board in 2020

My wife Lisa and I were born and raised in a small town, very much like Pleasanton, with charm and a strong local business community. We were high school sweethearts and have been married since 1982. I graduated from Turlock High School and shortly after graduating served as a commissioned officer in the United States Coast Guard. I was stationed at McClellan Air Force Base as an air crewman on a HC-130 aircraft. I have three children: Russell who is married and lives in Wichita, Kansas; Christopher and I partner in our real estate business; and Danielle, who works in San Francisco as a Senior Marketing Manager for Media Strategy + Planning.

For much of our adult lives, Lisa and I have been business owners and self-employed, in construction and design. I started my real estate career in 2004 with PMZ Real Estate and have been with them ever since. PMZ Real Estate was established in 1957 and has more than 600 agents.

I have also been a loyal supporter of giving back to the community where we live. I served five years on the Central Catholic School Board where our daughter attended high school, including a one-year term as the board chair. When my wife and I moved to the Pleasanton area in 2012, I immediately joined the Leadership Pleasanton and went through the Chamber and went through the Leadership Pleasanton that same year. Shortly after, I got involved with the Chamber Ambassador committee and ended up chairing that group as well. I joined The Rotary Club of Pleasanton and was Club President in 2016-2017.

Lisa sat on the Livermore Valley Wine Growers board for several years, and we were both a part of the American Cancer Society Relay for Life events. Lisa and I were asked to be on the Valley Care Charitable Foundation Board to prepare for the acquisition by Stanford Health Care. I chaired Stanford-ValleyCare’s Foundation golf tournament and helped Lisa and others put on the Polynesian paradise event for the Foundation as well.

Lisa and I were recognized and honored with the “Distinguished Individual Service Award” presented by the Chamber and the City in 2016.

I am a family man with a sense for business and philanthropy. We have two beautiful granddaughters, Grace and Rilynn, that spent several weeks with us this past summer. I built a lemonade stand for them, and in a true teaching moment, they sold lemonade at several community events, and chose to give the money to two local charities: Valley Humane Society and Pleasanton Military Families.

I look forward to chairing the Pleasanton Chamber Board of Directors in 2020 and continuing along the same path of living, working, giving back and thriving in the great community of Pleasanton.

We hope you had a wonderful holiday season and are ready to continue celebrating at our annual Business and Installation Luncheon where we acknowledge the chamber’s volunteer leadership on Wednesday, January 29 at The Club at Ruby Hill.

2019 Chair of the Board Herb Ritter of Ritter of Ritter Ventures, LLC will pass the gavel to 2020 Chair Randy Brown of PMZ Real Estate.

Under Ritter’s leadership, the chamber experienced a record year in new membership growth. Ritter also expanded the Chair’s Crew which is comprised of past chairs with more than 56 years of Pleasanton Chamber experience. Ritter also elevated the Circle of Influence membership by holding a private breakfast with the Mayor, City Manager and city leaders.

Ritter was very involved with supporting the rewrite of the Chamber’s 2025 Vision, supporting our Ambassadors and Leadership Program, and attending many of the chamber events throughout the year. Most importantly, Ritter was very proud of the efforts made by the volunteer committees and staff of the Chamber. “Without engagement from our volunteers and excellent staff, the Chamber would not be able to continue its work in being the catalyst for business growth, convener of leaders and influencers and the champion for a strong and healthy community,” said Ritter.

Chamber Foundation Recognition

At the luncheon later this month, the Chamber’s Foundation Chair Brock Roby of BFK Engineers will announce the Jenny Doeble Leadership Pleasanton Award winner, an honor bestowed upon a Leadership Pleasanton graduate who exemplifies the program’s goals for community engagement.

For reservations, visit www.pleasanton.org or call the Chamber offices (925) 846-5858.

Annual business luncheon to highlight accomplishments

Defining year (continued from page 1)

will be elected in November 2020. The Chamber of Commerce’s Business and Community Political Action Committee (BACPAC) will be very engaged in this process. We will be interviewing candidates and asking questions centered around our 2025 Vision Document which will be shared at our Business and Installation Luncheon. We will hold a Candidate’s Forum in the fall so the public can also hear directly from the candidates. I urge you to stay engaged in this very important democratic process and please reach out to me if you’d like to learn more about BACPAC by emailing me at steve@pleasanton.org.

Wishing you continued success in 2020!

Small-town business man Randy Brown to chair Chamber Board in 2020

We are considering adding another destination to travel late summer 2020. Your feedback is welcomed. Email kate@pleasanton.org with your input.

Visit pleasanton.org/chamber-travel

Travel Destinations for 2020

Attend an Information Meeting: January 14, 2020 at 6:30pm
Pleasanton Chamber Office — 777 Peters Ave., Pleasanton
Information: 925-846-5858 or kate@pleasanton.org

Alpine Lakes & Scenic Trains
October 1-9, 2020
$4,899* pp double
*Sign up by 3/26/20

Treasuries of Egypt
Optional 3-night Jordon Post Tour Extension
October 13 – 26, 2020
$4,724* pp double
*Sign up by 4/8/20
Please join us at the Doubletree by Hilton for the annual State of the City luncheon and hear first-hand what’s foremost on the mind of Mayor Jerry Thorne as he serves his final year in office before terming out. We hope to hear his thoughts about how the City Council is progressing on their priorities for 2020 such as updating the East Pleasanton Specific Plan and an update on the Costco Development. Other exciting projects we may learn more about include the Stoneridge Shopping Center’s Master Plan; additional parking for downtown and the ACE Train; the Valley Link transportation infrastructure plan; update on improving our water quality as well as the portation infrastructure plan; update on the Stoneridge Shopping Center’s Master Plan; additional parking for downtown and the ACE Train; the Valley Link transportation infrastructure plan; update on improving our water quality as well as the Costco Development; and the potential for a new library and civic center. Thorne is also expected to talk about the League of California Cities, Mayor Packard, Thorne has lived in Pleasanton for more than 30 years.

No doubt there’ll be plenty of good news to share about the past year as the City declared a $5.7 million surplus and began her career in the beauty industry doing hair and makeup. “It has been THE BEST decision I have ever made, for it has led me to finally do something that I truly love and enjoy.”

“Permanent MB is my baby, my very first official business and I have been running it since August of 2019,” she said. Mondragon specializes in eyebrow shaping services utilizing three of the most popular techniques for semi-permanent make up: microblading, ombre/powdered brows and combo brows which is a combination of microblading and ombre. She also offers top and bottom eyeliner which is a combination of microblading and ombre/powdered brows and combo brows which is a combination of microblading and ombre/powdered brows and combo brows which is a combination of microblading and ombre/powdered brows and combo brows which is a combination of microblading and ombre/powdered brows and combo brows which is a combination of microblading and ombre/powdered brows and combo brows. She also offers top and bottom eyeliner and the freshest lip trend, lip blush, that can color correct lip pigmentation and/or enhance the blushed tones of your lips. Microblading is definitely the most popular technique now a days that everyone wants to get done due to it being said to be semi-permanent and giving the eyebrow a “realistic” look by creating hair-like strokes on the skin to deposit pigment. “However, as I continue to educate my clients about it, most of them opt for a less invasive procedure like an ombre/powdered brow where I limit the amount of microblading done on the eyebrow to create more depth and dimension giving you a more realistic, clean finished look,” said Mondragon.

Permanent MB offers free 30-minute consultations where Brenda Mondragon educates her clients about what she does and shows them the potential of a nicely shaped eyebrow. Mention this article for 10% off any first service. Permanent MB is located at 205 Main Street, Suite G in downtown Pleasanton. Find them online at permanent.mb.com and on Instagram @ permanent.mmb.
Bruce Raine: Giving clients peace of mind around income taxes

Bruce Raine is a retired professor of accounting and computer systems from California State University in Hayward. In addition to 25 years at CSUH, Bruce has 40 years of consulting experience in accounting and income taxes. Today, Bruce focuses on income tax preparation and solving tax problems for his clients.

Bruce grew up in Canada where he attended college and worked for Deloitte. He came to California in 1980 and has made the East Bay his home for the past 40 years. During that time, he obtained his CPA and earned his MBA from Saint Mary’s College in Moraga.

Bruce’s commitment to his clients is for fast and friendly service with quick responses to phone calls and emails. Usually within 24 hours, Bruce will respond and then deal with the issue as soon as possible. His commitment is to prepare tax returns and get them back into his client’s hands within seven days of receiving the client’s income tax information.

Bruce prepares all types of income tax returns including for self-employed individuals, small business, tech employees with stock options, real estate investors and more. He does not charge by the hour but by a flat fee for the year so that his clients know exactly what it will cost before the work is done. The flat fee includes the preparation of the tax returns, meetings to discuss questions and issues during the year and responses to notices from the IRS and FTB.

In addition to income taxes, Bruce loves to give seminars about income tax updates, accounting issues for small businesses and a host of motivational subjects. Please contact Bruce to book him to come to your office to give a seminar to your staff and/or your clients. All seminars are free. For a free consultation to review your income tax returns and to discuss any questions or concerns that you may have, Bruce Raine, aka Batman is at bruce.its@hotmail.com or www.RaineTaxes.com.

Rhonda Fee: Giving back with every transaction

Rhonda Fee is a Bay Area native, born and raised in Fremont.

In 2004, Fee became a licensed salesperson and diligently worked full-time. During the worst economic times starting in 2007-08 she assisted many distressed sellers. In 2011, she earned her broker’s license, and opened Aspire Realty Services where she and her agents advocate for buyers and sellers.

Her specialty is residential real estate sales in the East Bay’s Tri-Valley. Her desire is to see other’s dreams and goals become a reality. Having grown up in a family of business owners, it was natural for her to become a business owner herself.

“Both my grandfather and my dad were licensed contractors dealing with the ins and outs of owning a business and satisfying clients,” said Fee. “The foundation of what I learned is what I watched all those years: integrity, honesty and keeping your word. That was and is my family’s recipe for success.”

Her passion for this business has helped her to become a successful Real Estate Broker, REALTOR® and business owner. She has consistently ranked among other top-level peers in the business for selling residential real estate.

“My greatest asset in a transaction is my complete knowledge of every detail of the contract,” said Fee. “This enables me to prepare my clients for things that may occur, therefore alleviating the stress of the unknown and being one step ahead of the process. My negotiating skills are spot on for best price and terms for my clients.”

“Because I believe part of being a whole and successful person includes giving back, with every transaction I support various non-profit organizations, including one close to my heart, Itty Bitty Healing Hooves, where I serve as the Secretary of the Board,” said Fee.

What’s ahead in 2020? “I expect to see stable prices, great loan options such as 3.5% down and the ability to use gift funds to secure a home in this highly sought-out area.”

Contact Rhonda at Aspire Realty Services at www.rhondafee.com or 925-200-0827.
Business Spotlight


At Luna Yoga, they believe everyone can enjoy the benefits of yoga. They offer custom yoga classes in an inclusive space, that meet every student at their level of experience. Learn what LUNA stands for.

Love
We are passionate about yoga and want to share it with you. Love is essential to connect with the self, others, and our purpose. We love our students regardless of gender, sexual orientation, religion, etc. Come as you are.

Unite
We believe the best within ourselves has the potential to connect with the best in others. This is the meaning of Namaste. That is why we created the Luna Yoga Studio, to unite people and foster healthy relationships with each other.

Nourish
We offer yoga classes in dynamic, static, or slow styles to help you meet your physical needs. Reduce chronic pain, prevent injuries, or improve mobility with our nourishing yoga classes for all experience levels.

Paving the road for safe driving

Are you worried about someone’s driving? One of the most difficult decisions facing physicians and families today is how to deal with a patient or loved one who has a medical condition or is taking medications that may have affected their ability to drive safely.

Many medical conditions such as dementia, heart disease and diabetes can affect driving abilities. Medications can also seriously impair someone’s ability to drive. Even when no single condition is severe, several conditions can combine to make a person unsafe to drive. When a person is unsafe to drive, that person must stop driving. The problem is in knowing when to stop.

Driver Cognitive Assessment Center Owner and Founder Melanie Henry learned in 2017 about DriveABLE being one of the world’s leading technologies for providing fair and accurate information about the safety of medically at-risk drivers. She immediately recognized the importance of bringing this service to her hometown in Pleasanton. The business opened the doors in October 2019.

Melanie arrived in the United States from Namaste, where she learned in 2017 about DriveABLE being one of the world’s leading technologies for providing fair and accurate information about the safety of medically at-risk drivers. She immediately recognized the importance of bringing this service to her hometown in Pleasanton. The business opened the doors in October 2019.

Melanie, who has a background in the health care industry, saw the need for a service that could help families and medical providers make informed decisions about driving safety.

“Driving is a complex skill that requires a combination of physical, cognitive, and emotional abilities,” Melanie said.
Membership Anniversaries

During the past two months, nearly 100 businesses renewed their investment in the Chamber, thereby demonstrating their continued commitment to community excellence while realizing the benefits, services and representation associated with membership in Pleasanton’s leading business organization.

We recommend that you lock first to Chamber members for your business and consumer needs.

Business Spotlight

Empowering and educating females, one community at a time

Girls Soccer Worldwide™ is a Bay Area non-profit that began by fulfilling a promise made over 25 years ago in the small rural town of Coronel Bogado, Paraguay by Co-Founder/International Director Walter Pratte. In 1991, he was taken by the generosity of this community who had so little and gave so much. Upon leaving, he made a promise that if he was to make a way for himself, he would “come back to give back.”

Five years ago, Walter returned to see poverty was still prominent and more importantly, girls were not given the same opportunities as boys in the game of soccer, simply because they were girls, losing out on important life skills gained from team sports. Walter returned to the U.S. with a vision to create opportunities for an equal playing field in a community 6,000 miles away that involved empowering local female athletes at the same time. In 2016, their first Ambassador-led trip was on its way.

Today, Girls Soccer Worldwide™ is a leadership program empowering girls to rise out of poverty through sports and education. They do this by creating opportunities for girls to have access to an equal playing field, which doesn’t exist in most areas outside of the U.S., to stay in school, which is a concern in most areas of poverty, and to gain leadership skills, which is needed regardless of where she is born.

What’s ahead: In January 2020, Girls Soccer Worldwide will be launching their new Leadership Program for female student athletes that includes local outreach for areas of poverty in the Bay Area. This nine-month experience is focused around gaining the confidence, courage, and character needed to be a voice for change within themselves and the community around them, as well as providing tangible skills to stand out and have an edge in a competitive environment. Also, November of 2020 will mark their fifth Ambassador-led trip to Paraguay. Details will be announced in March.

Business Spotlight

Successful Pleasanton Entrepreneur and Owner of Yoga Barn of Pleasanton Shares Her Secrets to Success

Women entrepreneurs are invited to Aerial Yoga for High Flying Women, a special free event on January 12, 2020 to share success strategies and explore inner peace and healing.

It was built in 1852 and is one of the few surviving adobe barns in California. “The building has always been referred to as the ‘Kottinger Barn,”’ said Moji. “The first time I walked inside I knew that it was a space where I was meant to grow in.”

Yoga Barn of Pleasanton is located at 200 Bay Street in Pleasanton. For more information about other classes and programs, visit www.yogabarnofpleasanton.com or call (925) 640-2737.
Business Spotlight

Transforming Lives, Strengthening Community

The Assistance League® of Amador Valley consists of approximately 100 local women who donate their time participating in philanthropic programs to help those in need in the Tri-Valley community. It is part of a national non-profit organization with 120 chapters and 23,000 members and is 100% volunteer based. Through a variety of programs benefiting children, the Assistance League of Amador Valley averages 9,000 hours annually of helping the community.

Their largest program, Operation School Bell, which provides clothing to school-age children in need, invites children to come to Kohls and shop for school clothes. More than 5,600 local children have benefitted from this program.

“My favorite part is the feeling I get when I have helped others in the community, whether it is working at the food bank, testing a group of three year olds for vision irregularities or watching the face of a seven year old who has just chosen new school clothes for the first time,” said Barbara Campos, who is in public relations for the Assistance League. "They say you give to others, but really, it’s the others who give to you.”

Campos recalls another rewarding experience at one of their recent Clothing the Kids programs. A mother was checking in her two children, a boy in kindergarten and his sister in second grade. When the boy was asked what he needed, he said he really didn’t need any clothes, but his sister needed a lot. He was very serious, and he continued to say he didn’t have a lot of clothes but wanted his sister to get lots. “As I walked around Kohls, I saw the boy and his volunteer shopper,” said Campos. “He had just tried on a turquoise sweatshirt and was bouncing around saying how much he loved it, how it was so cozy, as he hugged himself to feel how cozy it felt. And to think, this was the same child who had said while he didn’t have a lot, he didn’t need anything. He was exuberant about the new clothes.

Learn more about the Assistance League of Amador Valley at www.wwww.assistanceleague.org/amador-valley.

Business Spotlight

Teppanyaki at its finest

Welcome to Hana Japan, one of California’s finest teppanyaki-style steak and seafood Japanese restaurants. Family owned and operated since 1979, Hana Japan’s restaurants are located in Dublin and the Berkeley Marina. Dine at one of their Teppanyaki tables and watch your food cooked before your eyes by one of their fantastic chefs. Experience the amazing food and exciting atmosphere that is perfect for any evening. Bring your entire family and be entertained.

What is Teppanyaki?

Teppanyaki is a post–World War II style of Japanese cuisine that uses an iron griddle to cook food. The word teppanyaki is derived from teppan, which is the metal plate on which it is cooked, and yaki, which means grilled, broiled, or pan-fried. Do you long for the tastiest shrimp, scallops, lobster, chicken, beef, vegetables and great entertainment? Their chefs are dedicated to presenting for your pleasure the finest performance in Japanese teppanyaki food preparation.

Corporate Events and Birthdays at Hana Japan

Host your next corporate event or party with Hana Japan at either of their Bay Area locations. It is perfect for any occasion, and a fantastic option for those looking for something special to do on their birthday. Did you know you can receive a FREE dinner on your birthday with a party of four or more? Learn more at www.hanajapan.com.

The Dublin location features 12 teppanyaki tables, with each table set up for 8 and can seat up to 11 and a full bar. It is conveniently located off the 580 and 680 intersection at 7298 San Ramon Road in Dublin. Reserve a table today at 925-829-7491.
Ribbon Cuttings

Creating new jobs, stronger economy

BurgerIM — BurgerIM is a gourmet burger restaurant and they have something for everyone! They serve a variety of meats, veggies and falafel. They also have lettuce wraps, gluten free and keto buns. They pride themselves in their quality of food and service. They help local schools and athletic teams through fundraising opportunities and sponsorships. Need catering for a business lunch or family event? BurgerIM has you covered. Choose from their party boxes or family packs. BurgerIM is proud to call Pleasanton home and is located at 4233 Rosewood Drive, #11. In celebration of their one-year anniversary, BurgerIM is offering 10% off your entire meal when you mention Anniversary Celebration.

Gourmet burgers, fries, salads and shakes

Sri Sai Temple — Sri Sai Temple provides a spiritual environment for the community members and also performs charitable services such as feeding the hungry, care for life, food and healthcare drives, all for the benefit of the community. Sri Sai Temple’s principles are based on respect, love, equality, compassion and inclusiveness. Sri Sai Temple is located at 9875 Dublin Canyon Road in Pleasanton. To learn more, please visit www.SriSaiTemple.org and facebook.com/SriSaiTemple.org.

Pleasanton’s Shirdi Sai Baba Temple

Pure Barre — Pure Barre is an effective total body workout centered around low-impact, high-intensity movements that lift and tone muscles and improve strength, agility and flexibility for everybody. Its innovative technique comes in a range of class offerings that target strength, cardio and flexibility for people of all levels, providing clients with self-focused time to transform the body and mind. Pure Barre’s four group class formats are taught by highly-trained teachers seven days a week. Join Pure Barre for your first complimentary Pure Foundations class by calling 925.399.1624, emailing at pleasanton@purebarre.com, or visiting their website at purebarre.com/ca-pleasanton.

Strength, cardio and flexibility for people of all levels

AC Hotel Pleasanton — Revitalizing an idyllic suburban locale, AC Hotels by Marriott and Hersha Hospitality Management announce the highly-anticipated arrival of AC Hotel Pleasanton to Northern California’s Tri-Valley. AC Hotel Pleasanton, formerly Sheraton Pleasanton, offers a thoughtfully-modern hotel following a more than $20-million comprehensive transformation which features 171-reimagined guest rooms, engaging communal spaces, and the debut of a new outdoor pool deck among the redesigned touches introduced to the property. AC Hotel is located at 5990 Stoneridge Mall Road in Pleasanton.

171-reimagined guest rooms, formerly the Sheraton

Venture X — Venture X is a membership-based, shared workspace and community that is a blend of a boutique hotel and modern office styles with a high level of design that feels professional and welcoming. They are designing beautiful spaces and developing an environment and community that people love coming to work every day. Venture X is a member of United Franchise Group, a group of affiliated companies and brands, and has been recognized by Inc. as one of the best co-working spaces in the United States. Larry and Suzann Cabling the owners and operators of VENTURE X (Pleasanton) had this to say, “We’re excited to join Pleasanton’s entrepreneurial community with a place where members can connect with each other and also meet outside clients, while at the same time boosting inspiration on a daily basis and improving their businesses.” For more information about their locations, visit venturex.com.

One of the best co-working spaces in the United States

Carefield Pleasanton — Carefield Pleasanton Memory Care offers residents with Alzheimer’s and other dementias an active lifestyle full of fun and engaging activities, delicious meals prepared from fresh ingredients and plenty of opportunities to celebrate life each day. Carefield’s community offers exemplary services and amenities, with a professional care staff to accommodate the residents’ individual needs. Call today to schedule a tour of their newly remodeled community. Contact Diane Tran, Community Relations Director, at 925-461-8409 or email DTran@northstarsl.com for more information. Carefield Pleasanton is located at 4115 Mohr Avenue in Pleasanton. Learn more at www.carefieldliving.com/communities/pleasanton.

Newly remodeled memory care on Mohr Avenue