Business Connection

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We are the community that helps businesses start, grow, & thrive.

July 2025

Advancing Scientific Discovery and Healthcare for Over 70 Years

Founded in 1952 by David and Alice Schwartz in a small Quonset hut in Berkeley, Bio-Rad Laboratories has grown into a global leader in life science research and clinical diagnostics. For over 70 years, the company has developed and marketed innovative tools that help scientists and clinicians advance discoveries and improve healthcare. Today, Bio- Rad's products serve a wide range of customers including universities, hospitals, public health institutions, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, and labs focused on food safety and environmental quality.

Life Science Research

Bio-Rad ranks among the top five life science companies worldwide. It offers instruments, software, reagents, and consumables for applications including cell biology, gene expression, protein purification and quantitation, drug discovery, food safety, and science education. Its technologies help separate, purify, analyze, and amplify biological materials such as antibodies, nucleic acids, and cells.

Clinical Diagnostics

In the clinical space, Bio-Rad is a key provider of in-vitro diagnostic systems used for blood transfusion safety, diabetes monitoring, autoimmune disorders, and infectious disease testing. A global leader in clinical quality control, Bio-Rad helps ensure the accuracy of test results that are vital for diagnosis and treatment.

Digital Biology

Bio-Rad's proprietary Digital Droplet technology delivers highly sensitive and precise quantification of DNA and RNA. This cutting-edge innovation benefits a wide range of applications from life science research to environmental monitoring and food safety testing.

Investing in Community and Education

Bio-Rad is deeply committed to community outreach, especially in supporting science education. Its community programs enhance science literacy by providing hands-on, in- classroom activities and supporting nonprofit education partners and science educators. Employees volunteer to mentor students, assist with science fairs, and share real-world lab experience to encourage an interest in STEM-related fields at an early age.

To further inspire future scientists, Bio-Rad offers scholarships to local high school seniors pursuing degrees in science and engineering. The company also supports charitable initiatives, such as fundraising for diabetes and AIDS research and organizing internal events like its "Gobbler's Cup" food drive that benefit local food banks nation-wide.



Bio-Rad - the global leader in innovative products for life science research and clinical diagnostics.



Bio-Rad Laboratories, Digital Biology Group is located at 5731 W. Las Positas Blvd. in Pleasanton.

Local Presence

Bio-Rad's Digital Biology business is based in Pleasanton at 5731 W. Las Positas Blvd. To learn more, visit www.bio-rad.com.

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Stay connected with the Chamber

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Discover Your Path with Tri-Valley Career Center

The Tri-Valley Career Center (TVCC), a proud service of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District, is dedicated to helping individuals take the next step in their career journey. Located within the District's Economic Development-Contract Education Department, TVCC is part of a broader network that includes the OSHA Training Center, Apprenticeships, and Contract Education. This means job seekers and college students alike benefit from enhanced access to training programs and career guidance.

Personalized Career Counseling

One of TVCC's most impactful offerings is one-on-one career counseling. Whether you're re-entering the workforce, switching industries, or exploring career growth opportunities, our expert counselors are here to support you. They take time to understand your past experience, current skills, and future goals. Services include resume reviews, mock interviews, and tailored job search strategies.

To get started, attend one of TVCC's required Orientations—offered both virtually via Zoom and in person. These sessions introduce you to the Center's services and your career counselor. Orientation dates and times are listed on the Workshop Calendar on the TVCC website.

Unlike a staffing agency, TVCC doesn't place you in jobs or apply on your behalf. Instead, the philosophy is to "Help You Help Yourself"—empowering individuals with tools and knowledge for long-term success.

Online Tools at Your Fingertips

For those who prefer or need remote support, TVCC offers a library of free, downloadable Tip Sheets available 24/7. These guides cover every stage of the job search process, including resume writing, cover letter templates, networking strategies, LinkedIn tips, interview preparation, job fair success, and salary negotiation.

You'll also find information on critical soft skills, researching companies, and accessing job search websites and local recruiting agencies. These Tip Sheets are designed to complement your independent efforts and are an excellent resource no matter where you are in your job search journey.

Explore Training Opportunities

Looking to enhance your skill set or earn a certificate? TVCC can connect you with affordable or even free training options. From foundational skills like math and computer literacy to specialized certifications in software or technical fields, many programs can be completed in under two years. These certifications can increase your employability, earning potential, and chances for career advancement.



Alcian Lindo, TVCC's Program Manager, receiving "Best Employment Services" award.

Take the Next Step

With so many valuable services available, it's best to connect directly to discuss your needs. Visit www.trivalleycareercenter.org to learn more or call (925) 416-5100. TVCC is located at 5860 Owens Drive, 3rd Floor in Pleasanton. Office hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM, and Tuesday from 10:30 AM to 5:30 PM. The office is closed Friday through Sunday.

Let TVCC help you open the door to your next opportunity.

Golf, Gather, Celebrate: Discover the Club at Ruby Hill

Nestled in the heart of Pleasanton's scenic wine country, The Club at Ruby Hill offers an exceptional private club experience where elegance, recreation, and community come together. Featuring a Jack Nicklaus Signature Design golf course and a grand Tuscan-style clubhouse, the club provides a luxurious, well-rounded lifestyle for members of all ages.

Golfers can enjoy an 18-hole championship course surrounded by vineyard views and rolling hills. Off the course, Ruby Hill's amenities include tennis and pickleball courts, a junior Olympic-sized swimming pool, and a state-of-the-art fitness center. The club also hosts a variety of social events year-round, including themed pool parties, BBQs, and "Dive-In" movie nights.

The brand new state of the art Health and Wellness is fully equipped with Stairmasters, treadmills, ellipticals, free weights, cable machines, and more. Members also have access to a functional fitness yard with battle ropes, sleds, TRX, and Olympic barbells. Group fitness classes such as yoga, boxing, and golf conditioning are complimentary. A dedicated recovery room features Pilates equipment, yoga mats, rollers, and stretch tools to help members unwind and recover.

Ruby Hill's new pool and recreation area is designed for year-round enjoyment, featuring updated cabanas, brand-new heaters maintaining a steady 84 degrees, and a spa currently undergoing a facelift. The club also supports a thriving tennis and pickleball community, with four lighted tennis courts and dedicated pickleball space for leagues and tournaments.

Dining at The Club at Ruby Hill is a culinary experience all its own. Members enjoy seasonal menus served in elegant indoor spaces and scenic patios. Whether it's brunch, a wine dinner, or a casual evening out, the dining experience is curated to be both refined and memorable.


The Club at Ruby Hill is also a premier venue for weddings, private and corporate events.

The Club is also a premier venue for weddings, private events, and Golf Tournaments in the Tri-Valley. With panoramic views, elegant architecture, and professional event coordination, Ruby Hill offers a stunning setting for everything from intimate celebrations to grand receptions and corporate gatherings.

Whether you're seeking active recreation, fine dining, or a beautiful place to gather with family and friends, The Club at Ruby Hill delivers an elevated and welcoming lifestyle.

Learn more or schedule a tour at www.rubyhill.com.

Business Spotlight

School of Rock Pleasanton – Where Music Meets Community

If you've ever dreamed of learning to play an instrument, joining a band, or rocking out on stage, School of Rock Pleasanton is the place to start. Located at 3059 Hopyard Rd. Suite D, this new addition to the Pleasanton community offers a unique, performance-based approach to music education that sets it apart from traditional music schools.

School of Rock is the premier performance-based music program in the world, with over 70,000 students across the globe. Now open in Pleasanton, the school provides lessons in drums, bass, guitar, keyboards, vocals, songwriting, and even recording and production. Serving students from age 4 to adults, School of Rock Pleasanton welcomes beginners and seasoned musicians alike.

What is performance-based music education? "At School of Rock, it means we don't teach music to put on shows—we put on shows to teach music," says co-owner Ben Levine. "Our students don't just learn in a classroom; they join a real band and perform at real venues every four months. It's an exciting and empowering way to learn." The staff at School of Rock Pleasanton includes some of the most talented musicians and experienced teachers in the Bay Area, all of whom are dedicated to enriching lives through performance-based music education.

Ben and his wife Erin opened the school in April 2025. Ben brings a wealth of experience and passion to the school, holding a Master's Degree in Music from USC and a résumé that includes performing on a Grammy-winning album, a Billboard-charting record, and tours with major country artists. He also spent a decade teaching at Diablo Valley College and continues to perform locally, nationally, and internationally as an in-demand bassist.

For Ben, the true reward lies in watching his students grow. "The best part of this work is watching confidence, creativity, and leadership take root in our students. We're building more than musicians—we're building a community."

Want to see if School of Rock is the right fit for you or your child? Free trial lessons are available!

"Learning music at the School of Rock is easy and fun. Come by and let us show you how!"



School of Rock – Pleasanton owners, Ben and Erin Levine.

Contact Information:
Address: 3059 Hopyard Rd. Suite D, Pleasanton, CA 94588
Phone: (925) 535-7625
Email: pleasanton@schoolofrock.com
Website: pleasanton.schoolofrock.com

Business Spotlight

Helping Agents Succeed & Protect What Matters Most: Farmers District Office

At the heart of the Farmers District Office is a commitment to developing successful agency owners who help individuals and families protect what matters most. Led by District Manager Rachel Crawford, the office supports existing Farmers Insurance agency owners while also recruiting and training new agents and future agency owners. Each year, the district is allotted a limited number of new agency openings, and Rachel and her team work to fill those with highly motivated individuals eager to build their own businesses.

Farmers Insurance offers a comprehensive suite of products, including Home, Auto, Boat, RV, Motorcycle, Business, Workers Compensation, Life, Annuities, and select Financial Services. Their "one-stop-shop" approach ensures clients can access full-spectrum protection under one trusted brand.

What sets Rachel's team apart is their hands-on approach to mentorship and development. With over 30 years in the insurance industry, including both agency and corporate experience, Rachel brings a deep understanding and entrepreneurial mindset to the table. "Because I'm also a small business owner, I understand the challenges," she says. "We coach individuals to reach their goals, not just sell policies."

She continues, "Farmers offers the best of both worlds: while we are a captive insurance company, we also have the flexibility to write business outside of Farmers when needed. Farmers Insurance has the first right of refusal, but if we don't offer a product that meets the customer's needs, we can place that business through other carriers."

Rachel's insurance journey began in high school, where she worked as a secretary at an agency and quickly became licensed. Her career has included everything from corporate leadership roles to running an independent brokerage before joining Farmers in 2013. While initially drawn to agency ownership, she discovered her true passion in helping others succeed in the industry.

One of Rachel's deepest motivations comes from personal experience. "My best friend became a widow at 25. If her husband hadn't had life insurance, she would've lost everything," she shares. "We don't just sell insurance. We protect people's futures."

She adds, "Education is the most important role we can play with our customers and potential new agency owners. It's never about pressure; it's about making sure people are covered the right way."



Farmers Insurance District Manager
Rachel Crawford

For those interested in a new career path or in need of trusted coverage, the Farmers District Office is here to help.

Contact: Rachel Crawford | Office: (925) 399-4099 | Email: rcrawford@farmersagent.com

Shaping Tomorrow's Leaders for Over 30 Years

Registration Now Open for Leadership Pleasanton 2025-26

Since its launch in 1988 by the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Pleasanton has graduated more than 800 participants, each equipped with a deeper understanding of how Pleasanton functions and thrives. Now entering its 38th year, the program invites 30–34 individuals each fall from local businesses, government, nonprofits, and the community to participate in monthly, full-day sessions through May, culminating in a celebratory graduation.

Leadership Pleasanton provides a unique opportunity to go behind the scenes and connect with influential local leaders, gaining firsthand insight into the operations and collaboration that keep Pleasanton running smoothly. Whether you're new to town or a long-time resident, Leadership Pleasanton offers a meaningful way to connect with your community.

Program Highlights

Leadership Pleasanton is designed to build informed and engaged community leaders. Monthly sessions cover a variety of topics including:

- Pleasanton history
- Local government
- Business and economics
- Health and human services
- Education
- Public safety
- Infrastructure and recreation

Each session is interactive, educational, and led by local experts representing different sectors of the community.

Who Should Apply?

Leadership Pleasanton is ideal for residents or professionals working in Pleasanton who want to:

- Strengthen leadership and community engagement skills
- Deepen their understanding of local issues and operations
- Become part of a strong network of personal and professional contacts

Commitment & Investment

Participants must commit to attending full-day sessions held on the second Thursday of each month from fall through spring. Tuition is $950 and includes all materials, transportation, lunch, and a graduation celebration.

Ready to make an impact? Online registration is now open for the 2025-26 class at www.pleasanton.org/leadership-pleasanton

Leadership Pleasanton
A Program to Develop Community Leaders

Business Spotlight

Helping Kids See Clearly: Treehouse Eyes Brings Myopia Care to Pleasanton

Parents in Pleasanton now have a specialized resource to help their children manage nearsightedness, thanks to Treehouse Eyes, the country's first and only health care practice dedicated exclusively to treating myopia in children. Conveniently located at 3037 Hopyard Road, Suite J in Pleasanton, Treehouse Eyes offers science-based, customized treatment plans that go beyond traditional eyeglasses to address the root of the problem—slowing the progression of myopia to protect long-term vision.

Myopia, or nearsightedness, is becoming increasingly common in children, with rates rising dramatically over the last few decades. More than just a prescription issue, untreated myopia can lead to serious eye health risks later in life, including retinal detachment, glaucoma, and macular degeneration. That's why the team at Treehouse Eyes is on a mission: to improve children's quality of life and long-term eye health by tackling myopia early and effectively.

The Pleasanton location is led by Dr. Maria Liu, an experienced optometrist with a passion for pediatric eye care. "We're excited to bring this level of specialized care to families in Pleasanton and the surrounding area," says Dr. Liu. "So many parents don't realize that myopia can and should be treated—not just managed with stronger and stronger glasses."

Dr. Liu and her team specialize in managing childhood myopia, utilizing state-of-the-art equipment to create personalized treatment plans tailored to your child's needs. "Our non-invasive treatments include customized contact lenses and specially formulated prescription eye drops". Data from children using our patent-pending Treehouse Vision System® treatment plan shows a 40-78% decrease in the progression of their myopia vs. no treatment. At your initial consultation, Dr. Liu will determine the treatment that is the most effective and safest option for your child. Each child receives a personalized treatment plan based on their unique needs and lifestyle, with regular monitoring to track progress and adjust as needed.



Thousands of children have been successfully treated by Dr. Maria Liu.

Treehouse Eyes is now accepting new patients at their Pleasanton office. To learn more or schedule a free consultation, visit www.treehouseeyes.com/Pleasanton or call (925) 209-2129.

Business Spotlight

De La Torre's Trattoria: A Beloved Taste of Italy in Pleasanton

For over 30 years, De La Torre's Trattoria has been a cornerstone of Pleasanton's dining scene, offering authentic Italian cuisine in a warm, inviting setting. Located at 6025 West Las Positas Blvd., in Pleasanton, this family-owned restaurant has become a local favorite for its delicious food, charming ambiance, and commitment to quality.

Their recipe is not secret — they prepare and serve delicious food using quality ingredients. The menu is distinctly Italian offering trattoria classics and a hallmark special menu which changes daily to accentuate the freshness of locally grown produce, naturally raised meats, small producers and family wineries in Italy and California. The service is friendly, efficient, and professional. Simply put, they feature delectable food at a fair price, food people want to eat every day.

Founded by Chef Tom De La Torre, the restaurant reflects his passion for traditional Italian cooking, with a menu that celebrates bold flavors, fresh ingredients, and time-honored techniques. From hand-tossed pizzas and house-made pastas to hearty meat dishes and daily seafood specials, every plate is crafted with care and attention to detail.

One of the standouts on the menu is the Wild King Salmon—wild caught salmon cooked on a cedar plank basted with a lemon vinaigrette. Pasta lovers return time and again for the Tagliatelle Bolognese and the Lasagna al Forno, while the daily specials, such as Veal Osso Bucco and Cioppino showcase the kitchen's creativity and culinary range.

Over the years, De La Torre's has earned a loyal following not only for its consistently great food but also for its role in the community. Whether supporting local events or welcoming generations of families through its doors, the trattoria has stayed true to its mission: to offer exceptional Italian cuisine in an environment where guests feel like family. Dress casually, bring along friends, and have a healthy appetite — you won't be disappointed.



De La Torre's, a family-owned restaurant, has earned a loyal local following thanks to its flavorful cuisine, inviting atmosphere, and dedication to excellence.

De La Torre's Trattoria is open for lunch and dinner, with dine-in, takeout, and catering options available. Reservations are recommended, especially on weekends.

Location: 6025 West Las Positas Blvd., Pleasanton, CA
Phone: (925) 484-3878
Website: www.delatorres.net
Hours: Monday–Friday: 11:30 AM–2:00 PM; Monday–Thursday 5:00–8:30 PM; Friday-Saturday 5:00-9:30 PM; Closed Sunday



Pleasanton Chamber Golf Outing

Callippe Preserve Golf Course

Food, drinks, prizes, fun, and golf!

The Pleasanton Chamber's annual Golf Outing is back at Callippe Preserve Golf Course on Thursday, September 18, 2025! As the Chamber's premier fundraising event of the year, this day promises a lively mix of golf, delicious food, refreshing drinks, exciting prizes, and unbeatable networking.

Whether you're an avid golfer or just along for the fun, this event is open to all. It's the perfect way to enjoy the outdoors, connect with local professionals, and showcase your business.

Scan QR Code to register for golf or sponsorship.



Business Spotlight

Got Issues with the Water? Just Call the Otter!

The Otter Squad Plumbing & Drain: A Family Legacy of Service and Heart

Pleasanton's go-to plumbing team has a new name and the same trusted service. Formerly known as Ortiz Plumbing & Drain Cleaning, The Otter Squad Plumbing & Drain is proudly continuing a family legacy that spans more than three decades. With over 30 years of hands-on experience and six years in business as of May 15, the company—led by Alfredo Ortiz and now managed by his daughter Alethea—offers comprehensive plumbing services for water, waste, and gas. From installations and repairs to remodels and emergency calls, The Otter Squad brings expert solutions and a family-first approach to every job.

What sets The Otter Squad apart? It's not just their plumbing expertise—it's how they treat their customers. "We treat our customers like we would our own family," says Alethea. "We're upfront about what it takes to get the job done right the first time." That commitment to transparency and quality workmanship has earned them the trust of clients throughout the East Bay.

The Otter Squad's story begins in 1996 when Alfredo Ortiz founded Ortiz Plumbing with a passion for the trade and a drive to provide for his young family. After gaining experience through Wyotech and the Local 393 Union of San Jose, and leading major commercial projects for clients like Apple and Google, Alfredo took a leap of faith to start his own business. His dream wasn't just about success—it was about creating generational wealth and a strong family foundation.

Alfredo and his wife, Daniela, built more than a business—they built a home that welcomed their children, their community, and countless local youths into a supportive environment full of mentorship, teamwork, and unconditional care. "I love my squad," Alfredo would often say. That spirit lives on in the company's new name and otter-inspired branding—symbolizing resourcefulness, teamwork, and a tight-knit family working together.



Now known as The Otter Squad Plumbing & Drain, Alfredo and Daniela Ortiz and their family reflect the same values they've upheld for over 30 years: teamwork, trust, and a strong sense of family.

Today, sons Freddie Jr. and Manuel are journeyman plumbers, while Alethea runs the business office. Together, they've transformed their father's vision into The Otter Squad, a company that reflects the values of service, integrity, and heart.

For top-notch plumbing and a family you can count on, just call The Otter!

The Otter Squad Plumbing & Drain
7034 Commerce Circle, Ste. H,
Pleasanton, CA
(925) 397-2271
Alethea@ottersquad.com
www.ottersquad.com



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openheartkitchen.org

925-580-1616

Pleasanton Chamber



Scan to donate

Membership Anniversaries

During the past two months, over 80 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 look first to chamber members for your business and consumer needs.

64 Years
Pleasanton Garbage Service

45 to 52 Years
Graham-Hitch Mortuary
Big O Tires of Pleasanton

40 to 44 Years
Kaiser Permanente-Diablo Service Area
Lupeika, Walt, CPA
Ross Property Management Inc.
Sallmann, Yang & Alameda

35 to 39 Years
Mavridis Investments
Keystone Adult Learning Center

30 to 34 Years
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
Hope Hospice
Pleasanton Tool & Manufacturing
Colliers International
Pleasanton Lions Club
Proforma/J.C.L. Print Associates

25 to 29 Years
Pleasanton Police Officers Association
Stoneridge Apartments

20 to 24 Years
Agape Villages Foster Family Agency
Crown Trophy
Corporate Games, Inc.
Service Champions Heating & Air

15 to 19 Years
360 Web Designs
The Write Business
Workday, Inc.

10 to 14 Years
Integrated General Counsel, P.C.
Blue Oaks Church
Harrington Art Partnership
Insignia Designs
PMZ Real Estate
CAS InterGlobal LLC
Spinal Health Chiropractic
Bay Alarm Company
Pleasanton Community Concert Band
UHaul of the EastBay
Valley Business Park
Landmark Lending

5 to 9 Years
10X Genomics
Chick-fil-A
Lathrop GPM LLP
Primrose Bakery
LifePlan Lawyer
Phoenix Technology Group, Inc.
Valley Plumbing Home Center, Inc.
Creatif
Income Tax Services
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Alameda County General Services Agency
Bio-Rad Laboratories, Digital Biology Group
Brookwater Irrigation Consultants
KG Investment Properties
Oyo
A Clear Way - Home Organization
Cal Coast Window and Door

1 to 4 Years
Gilman Brewing Company, Taproom
Goodness Village
Pleasanton Physical Therapy Services
Bay Home & Window / Inspired Closets
D1 Training
DeCarli Law Trusts & Estate Planning
Emerald Valley Senior Living
Oasis Wine Lounge
Rubys & Roses
Synergy One Lending
Dublin Technology Center Workspaces
Freedom Wealth Insurance and Financial Services, Inc.
Park46 Real Estate
Pleasanton Junior Football League
RChilli Inc.
Valley EyeCare Center
Accurate Firestop, Inc.
Danville Brewing Company
Gar-Cal Corporation
Livermore - Pleasanton Elks Lodge No. 2117
P.F. Chang's China Bistro
School of Rock - Pleasanton
The Olive Market
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ZenBusiness

Business Spotlight

Summit Business Partners LLC

Guiding Growth with Strategy and Support



Nels Toriano, Founder & Principal Business Coach

At Summit Business Partners LLC, we help founders, executives, and business owners move from stuck to scaling. Our mission is to support small and mid-sized businesses with the right strategies, systems, and support — so they can grow with clarity and confidence.

Summit offers business development coaching, fractional sales leadership, and AI-powered sales strategy for companies ready to elevate their performance. From building a revenue engine to developing a strong sales process or revitalizing a team, we roll up our sleeves to deliver real outcomes. Our services include CRM and outbound system design, lead generation playbooks, strategic positioning, and sales team coaching.

What sets Summit apart is the personal investment we bring to each client. I've spent over 17 years in business development and sales leadership across technology and service industries. I know firsthand how overwhelming it can be to juggle growth while managing the day-to-day. Summit isn't just a coach — we're a trusted partner in building lasting momentum.

After launching in Pleasanton, I've expanded my commitment to the broader Tri-Valley area, becoming an active member of both the Pleasanton and Fremont Chambers of Commerce, a volunteer with Lions International, and an instructor at Ohlone College's Community Education program. I'm also the co-owner of a local martial arts school, where we help families build confidence and support local nonprofits through fundraising and community events.

As I often tell my clients: "You don't need a miracle. You need a map — and someone who's walked it before."

Whether you're looking to grow your business, sharpen your sales strategy, or reconnect with your purpose, Summit Business Partners LLC is ready to help you reach your next summit. I invite you to contact us and explore how we can unlock your next level of growth — together. Contact Nels at nels@summit-bp.com or (510) 304-6383.

Business Spotlight

Frontier Energy Food Service Technology Center Leads the Way in Foodservice Efficiency

This fall, Frontier Energy's Food Service Technology Center (FSTC) proudly celebrates 38 years of supporting the commercial foodservice industry with trusted research, expert guidance, and cutting-edge training. Now operating from a new, state-of-the-art facility at 1075 Serpentine Lane, Suite B in Pleasanton, the FSTC continues to lead the way in advancing energy efficiency, productivity, and performance in commercial kitchens.

As a dual-fuel (gas and electric) testing, research, and training facility, the FSTC is uniquely equipped to evaluate a wide range of foodservice equipment. Its combination of technical expertise, independent laboratory testing, and hands-on demonstration capabilities allows for side-by-side equipment comparisons—empowering operators to make confident, cost-effective decisions.

"Food Service is a people-focused industry. I love the relationships that we've built over the past 38 years and look forward to working with our partners to build a better future for the industry!" says David Zabrowski, Vice President at Frontier Energy, Inc.

The FSTC is staffed by a team of experts with deep knowledge of technologies, design strategies, and operational practices that support the decarbonization of commercial foodservice operations. The center maintains a strictly unbiased approach. We do not sell or promote specific products. Instead, equipment is tested under standardized conditions in an accredited lab, and results are shared transparently giving chefs, operators, and designers the insights they need without sales pressure.

The FSTC proudly supports the commercial foodservice industry with a robust lineup of services, including but not limited to:

- Foodservice equipment, energy, and performance testing
- Commercial kitchen energy surveys
- Design and equipment consultations
- "Try before you buy" equipment testing
- Induction cooktop loan programs
- Live in-person induction demonstrations
- Virtual training classes
- Utility incentive guidance

Frontier Energy's FSTC is excited to continue its 38-year-long mission to cut carbon and save water in the commercial foodservice industry—while expanding its footprint to provide space for industry events, educational workshops, and hands-on training opportunities beyond utility programs. Whether you're a restaurant operator, facility manager, or foodservice consultant, FSTC is a go-to resource for practical, tested solutions.

Contact Frontier Energy, Food Service Tech Center, Email – fstc@frontierenergy.com, Website – www.frontierfstc.com

Business Spotlight

Sweet Success: Passion Pastry Delivers Gourmet Treats with Heart and Flavor

At Passion Pastry, we specialize in creating joy through gourmet cookies, custom cakes, and our famous Peruvian Alfajores. Whether you're indulging your sweet tooth or planning a special event, we're your one-stop shop for delicious, handcrafted treats. You'll find us at farmers markets and pop-up events around the Tri-Valley, where we've become a local favorite. We also operate a charming storefront at 3500 Bernal Avenue, #155 in Pleasanton, where we serve not just our signature desserts, but also specialty drinks and savory croissants fresh from the oven.

What truly sets Passion Pastry apart is the care we put into everything we bake. Our recipes are time-tested, our ingredients are high-quality and natural, and the flavors speak for themselves. Every cookie, cake, or croissant is made with the intent of creating a memorable experience. We pride ourselves not just on taste, but also on excellent customer service—we always want you to leave with a smile and something delicious in hand.

Although we officially opened our storefront in 2021, our story began much earlier. Sofia, our founder, started baking in 2008 as a hobby for family and friends. Her cakes quickly became the star of every gathering. When Peruvian friends asked if she could recreate a traditional cookie from home called the Alfajor, she gave it a try. The result was so popular that it inspired her first cookie stand at the Pleasanton Farmers Market, and Passion Pastry was born. From there, we've grown to include a variety of pastries, and we're constantly experimenting with new ideas like our fan-favorite, absolutely delicious, Ube Tres Leches cake.

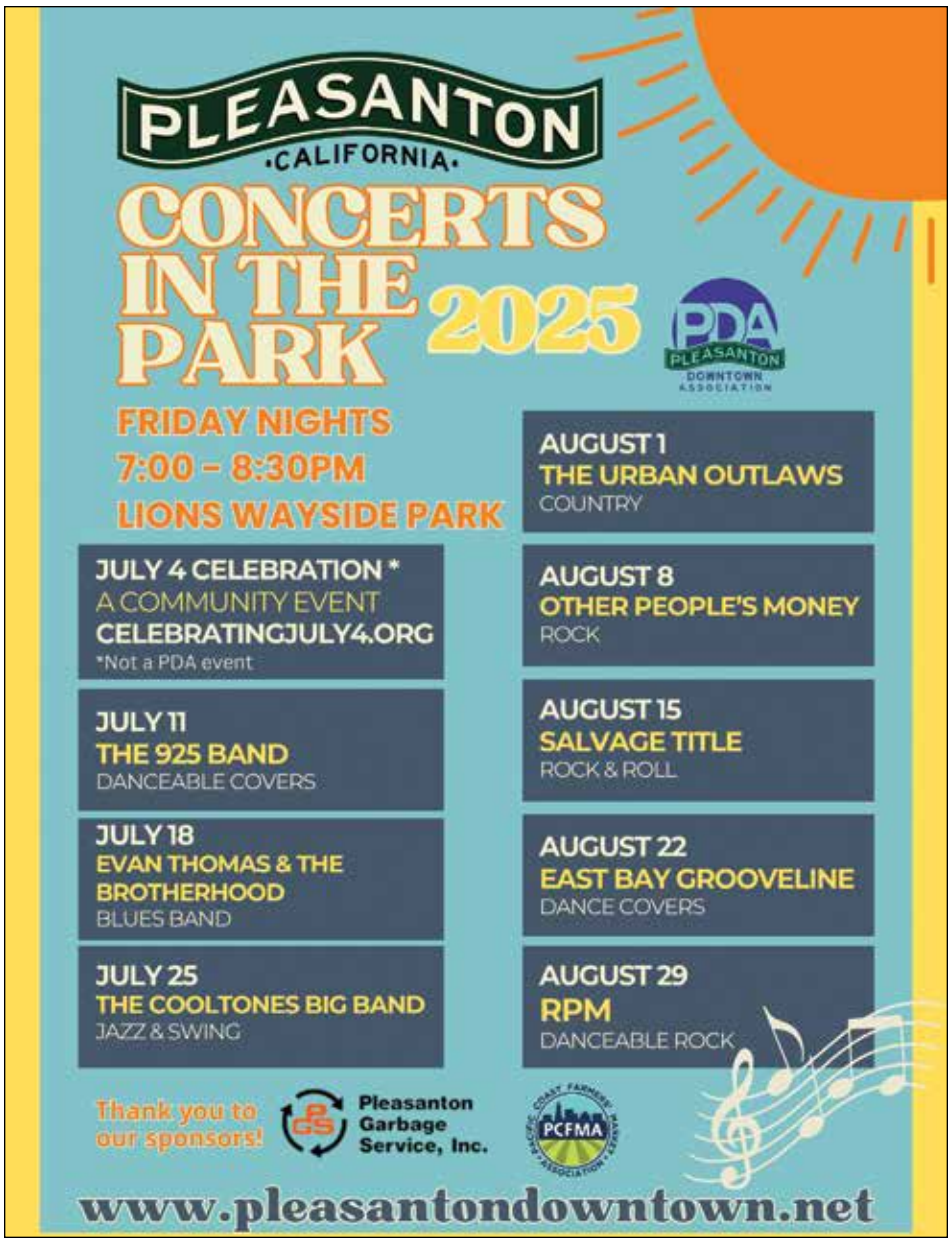
What we love most about this business is the community—meeting people, hearing their stories, and knowing our desserts play a small but sweet role in their special moments. The friendships we've formed with fellow market vendors and customers alike are the icing on the cake.

If you're in the mood for something unique, flavorful, and made with love, visit us in person or reach out. We'd love to make your day a little sweeter.

Passion Pastry,
3500 Bernal Avenue,
Suite 155, Pleasanton.
Call or text Arman, Manager at
(925) 596-0583.
Visit www.passionpastry.com
or email Arman at
passionpastrypleasanton
@gmail.com.



Sofia, founder of Passion Pastry, has been making international cookies and desserts since 2008.





COMMUNITY OF CHARACTER 2025 SUMMER BBQ FUNDRAISER

Join the Pleasanton Community of Character Collaborative at our 6th annual summer barbeque and auction. Proceeds fund college scholarships for Pleasanton students who demonstrate exceptional character traits and community volunteerism.

5:00 PM, Saturday August 16, 2025

RESPONSIBILITY - COMPASSION - SELF DISCIPLINE - HONESTY - RESPECT - INTEGRITY

Meal includes Fred's famous (Tri-Tip) steak, salad, fresh brown butter corn, homemade baked beans, several vegetarian dishes, and a dessert.
Beer, wine, soft drinks, and water included.

Live entertainment featuring Pleasanton's own, Rusty Vinyl

https://auctria.events/cofbbq2025

Ribbon Cuttings

Creating new jobs, stronger economy



Anuradha Kadiveti, Intero Real Estate — The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce was proud to host a ribbon cutting ceremony to welcome Anuradha Kadiveti of Intero Real Estate to the Chamber community. Anuradha brings dedication, professionalism, and a personalized approach to helping clients navigate the real estate market in Pleasanton and beyond. Visit her website at www.rrrealty.homes to learn more about her services and commitment to excellence in real estate.



iCode Pleasanton — The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce was excited to welcome iCode Pleasanton with a celebratory ribbon cutting ceremony. iCode offers hands-on STEM education for kids, helping students build valuable skills in programming, robotics, game development, and more. Their engaging curriculum is designed to spark curiosity and inspire the next generation of tech leaders. Visit www.icodeschool.com/pleasanton-ca to learn more.



Best in Class Education Center — The Chamber proudly celebrated the grand opening of Best in Class Education Center – Pleasanton with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 4466 Black Avenue, Suite B. Locally owned and operated, the center offers individualized tutoring and enrichment in math and English for students from preschool through high school, as well as SAT and ACT test preparation. Learn more at bestinclasseducation.com/locations/pleasanton.



Valley Humane Society — Valley Humane Society recently celebrated the refurbishment of its pet adoption center at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton with a ribbon cutting and open house. The event highlighted the incredible work being done to care for adoptable cats and dogs in search of loving homes in our community. To learn more about their programs, volunteer opportunities, or ways to support their mission, visit https://valleyhumane.org.



Maven & Co. Collective – The Pleasanton Chamber welcomed new member Maven & Co. Collective with a ribbon cutting celebration at their stunning salon located at 616 Main Street in Downtown Pleasanton. Led by owner Jennifer Hatcher, Maven & Co. offers luxury hair services in a warm, community-centered environment. Specializing in customized color, hand-tied extensions, and expert styling, the Maven team is passionate about helping clients look and feel their best. Learn more at http://mavenandcocollective.com.



Sierra Oak Counseling – We were thrilled to welcome Sierra Oak Counseling to the Pleasanton Chamber with a ribbon cutting celebration at our office. Founded by Jennifer Green, Ph.D., LPCC 13937, the practice offers compassionate in-person and telehealth counseling across California. Dr. Green specializes in supporting children and teens, and individuals with developmental delays, as well as adults facing anxiety, burnout, grief, and life transitions. Using a strength-based, mind-body approach, she empowers clients to gain clarity and confidence. Learn more at www.sierraoakcounseling.com.