

# Business Connection

Strengthening the local economy and serving members for 70 years



925.846.5858

[www.pleasanton.org](http://www.pleasanton.org)

March 2020

## A Pizza Icon Celebrates One Year in Pleasanton

Porky's Pizza Palace will be celebrating its one-year anniversary at its Pleasanton location on Tuesday, March 10. The festivities will include a ribbon cutting at 3:30 p.m.

Beginning at 5:00 p.m., the staff at Porky's will hold their signature throwback event – popular in the 60's and 70's at their San Leandro location. They will be selling 14-inch, large cheese pizzas for just one dollar. Sales of cheese

pizzas will cap at 200, and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

The last time that the owners of Porky's held this event was when they celebrated their 50th anniversary of the San Leandro location. Porky's will also be showcasing their new specialty cocktails with drink specials, featuring The Palace Punch and The P-Town

(continued on page 8)



Porky's Pizza Palace invites everyone from the community to attend their one-year anniversary tribute event on March 10, where they'll have \$1 cheese pizzas for a limited time.

## Professional audio visual for your corporate events

VIP Audio Visual Company partners with companies to deliver professional and engaging audio-visual experiences for corporate events. From initial planning, to content development, event management, and video production, the team at VIP AV offers a full line of audio visual and media services to make your next corporate event or meeting a success.

"We pride ourselves on corporate event production and web streaming capabilities as they are rapidly becoming the go-to standard for many companies that want to reach a massive audience, boost engagement, and increase the overall ROI of their events," said Manny Peregrina, President of VIP AV.

"If our local businesses need some thing A/V related, small or large, we want to be the first call every time."

VIP AV is very happy to announce its 10-year anniversary this year, and to celebrate they are planning a showcase event at the Roundhouse Conference Center in San Ramon

later this month. Manny credits the success of its business, as

they continue to grow year over year, to the developing trust from clients and partnerships. They handled 1,500 events in 2019 and look to rival that number in 2020.

As a full-service audio-visual provider, VIP AV also offers the most advanced audio, video, and lighting equipment as rentals. Customizable for any event, their extensive AV

rental equipment inventory features the latest technology to make your event a success.

VIP AV likes to meet their clientele in person as much as possible

and they are striving to be the go-to solution for corporate A/V needs to everyone in Pleasanton. Learn more online at [www.vipav.com](http://www.vipav.com) or call VIP AV at 925-236-0583.



VIP Audio Visual is celebrating 10 years in business this year. They specialize in the audio visual and media services for any type or size of corporate events.

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Nina Pomeroy Photography





## BOARD MEMBERS &amp; STAFF

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Business Connection is a bi-monthly publication of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce.

The positions and views advocated here are solely the responsibility of the Chamber.

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# Pleasanton: by design, not by accident

I read something on the Chamber's website the other day that I wanted to share with you. "Our strong local economy and extraordinary quality of life happen by design, not by accident. Working together, we cause great things to happen."

It sounds so simple, yet it really speaks to the relationship between the City of Pleasanton, the business community and the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce. It's not one person. It's not one organization. The great quality of life that we all share in Pleasanton was designed by community leaders. These leaders have worked together to create one of the best cities in the country to live, work and raise a family.

Pleasanton residents enjoy a quality of life that many communities strive to achieve. We have a downtown that offers world class charm and is cherished by all that live here. Let's face it, it's fun. There are great restaurants and shops to visit along with fun events happening all the time that are organized by the Pleasanton Downtown Association.

Our public schools are outstanding and offer a high-quality education. Pleasanton Partnerships in Education

Foundation (PPIE), a community-based organization born out of the Chamber in the mid-1980s, exists to enhance learning experiences for students of the Pleasanton Unified

School District through a partnership of business, education and the community. More recently the "Pillars of Pleasanton" was created to showcase local businesses that support PPIE. Top-notch schools go hand in hand with a healthy real estate market. Attracting highly qualified employees who want to enroll their kids in Pleasanton schools is helpful to the entire community.

The safety we experience here is also a vital part of our quality of life. The Pleasanton Police Department and the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department do an amazing job keeping the community safe, as well as informed. The police department just completed its 30th year of the DARE program and has a constant presence at the schools. National Night Out, Coffee with a Cop and Cone with a Cop are just a few of the other events where you will see law enforcement engaged with the community. The fire department certifies approxi-

mately 80 citizens a year in the Community Emergency Response Training program. The LPFD also engages with the community through youth and government programs, reading to children at the library and holding informational booths on disaster preparedness.

The City of Pleasanton underwent a period of unprecedented growth after 1960. It was the third fastest growing city in California, and realizing that such growth would change the face of the city forever, the community leaders sought to manage development by adopting the motto "city of planned progress" and worked to ensure that infrastructure planning met residential and commercial needs while retaining the historical flavor

and heritage. Pleasanton has become a hub for the 21st century technology companies and breakthrough biomedical research.

I think it's only fitting that I leave you with a few excerpts from the City of Pleasanton's Vision Statement.

I'm so thankful that we live in a community that has this vision, with everyone working together to achieve greatness.

"Pleasanton is a well-planned, balanced community with desirable neighborhoods, an award-winning downtown with its small-town character, a diversified economic base, excellent schools, and a wide variety of community facilities. Pleasanton is a great place to live, raise a family, work, and do business."



**Randy Brown**  
2020 Chair  
of the Board



Lisa and Randy Brown with members of the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department at National Night Out, which enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community.

## Good people doing great things in Pleasanton

The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce will recognize those deserving individuals, groups and businesses who have demonstrated excellence and community leadership in business, volunteer activities and achievement within the Pleasanton community

on Monday, March 23, 2020 at the Firehouse Arts Center. The Community Service Awards began in 1963 to recognize good people doing great things in the community and since then hundreds of recipients have been honored.

### The honorees for the 57th Annual Community Service Awards are:

Business Philanthropy **UNCLE CREDIT UNION**  
Chevron Fuel Your School Teacher Award **JONATHAN GRANTHAM**  
Distinguished Individual Service **BERNIE BILLEN**  
Excellence in Business **BUMBLEBEE MARKETING SERVICES**  
Excellence in Service **SPECTRUM COMMUNITY SERVICES**  
Green Business **EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT**  
Lifetime Achievement **VIC MALATESTA**

The Chamber is also pleased to announce the continued partnership with Chevron for the Fuel Your School Teacher Award, presented to a teacher in the Pleasanton Unified School District. Chevron's Fuel Your School program is available to help fund classroom projects posted by K-12 public school teachers on DonorsChoose.org. The Fuel Your School program is part of Chevron's overall support for education, which has totaled over \$400 million worldwide since 2013, helping to provide teachers with the tools to prepare students for the jobs of the future.

This event, sponsored by the Agape Villages, Amos Productions, Black Tie Transportation, Cellar Door, Chevron, Eddie Papa's, Golden 1 Credit Union, Moving Perceptions, Primrose Bakery, Ritter Investments and Strizzi's Catering,

will celebrate amazing people who go the extra mile to make Pleasanton a fabulous place to live and do business. The public is invited to attend this fun-filled evening beginning at 6:00 p.m. with a hosted bar and heavy hors' d'oeuvres in the wonderful setting of the Firehouse Arts Center followed by the awards presentation inside the theater. Cost to attend is \$40 per person and tickets are on sale now at [www.pleasanton.org](http://www.pleasanton.org).

A limited number of sponsorship opportunities are available. If you are interested in company recognition through an event that is evidence that we live and work in a thriving community, contact the Chamber at 925.846.5858.

The Pleasanton Chamber presented nine Community Service Awards in March of 2019 – Chevron Fuel Your School Teacher



Award: Kelly Lack; Business Philanthropy: Black Tie Transportation and Omni Fight Club; Excellence in Business: Ogden Costa Creative Group; Excellence in Service: Sunflower Hill; Distinguished Individual Service: Joe Carlucci and Susan Hayes; Green Business: Sabio on Main; Lifetime Achievement: Ted C. Fairfield.

### EVENT AND PARTICIPATING SPONSORS





## Business Spotlight

# Feel the life-changing magic of an organized home

Amy Johnson is a professional home organizer specializing in the KonMari Method™ developed by world-renowned Japanese home organizer Marie Kondo. It is an organizational approach that emphasizes category over location, sorting and discarding before storing and a love for items we keep and a gratefulness for what we let go. Often times, once you know what sparks joy in your home, you can see clearly what sparks joy in your life.

When clients are ready to tackle their home and belongings, the KonMari Method is the clear way forward to achieving the tidy home they've dreamed of. Amy guides clients through the program one category at a time, encouraging them to keep only those items that spark joy and support their ideal lifestyle.

"I had just finished organizing my entire house when my brother passed away in April of 2018," said Amy. "I offered to help my sister-in-law clean out my brother's belongings because I knew it would be incredibly difficult and she would need some support. She told me at the time she was not ready to deal with his things but was ready to take on the rest of her home, particularly her home office."

She and my brother lived with constant clutter, so I jumped at the chance to help her. After making progress on her office, her

friends couldn't believe it (most had never seen the top of her desk before) and a good friend of hers said, "Give me your sister-in-law's number NOW."

"I've been working with her since May and both of these experiences made me realize I not only enjoyed organizing for myself but got a tremendous amount of gratification and joy from helping others do the same." With their encouragement, Amy decided to pursue this as a career and is currently a KonMari™ Consultant in Training. She wants everyone to feel the life-changing magic of an organized home.

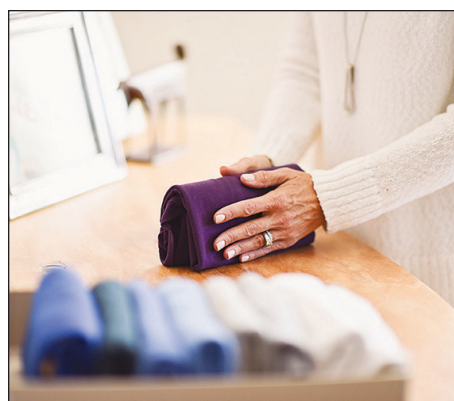
Amy has been a graphic designer for 20 years and while she loves it, she has always envied her friends with their "do-good" careers (hospice workers, teachers, nurses . . .) "After a particularly great tidying session, my clients give me a big hug and are so happy and grateful. They can feel their lives improving. Nobody ever gave me a hug for designing their brochure."

While Amy specializes in and encourages following the KonMari approach, she is not limited to it and will do whatever a client needs – i.e. a smaller project or a specific area of the home as desired.

For more information on A Clear Way – Home Organization, visit [www.aclearway.com](http://www.aclearway.com) or contact Amy Johnson at [amy@akf-design.com](mailto:amy@akf-design.com) or 415-302-3031.



Amy Johnson of A Clear Way - Home Organization guides clients through the program one category at a time, encouraging them to keep only what sparks joy and supports their ideal lifestyle.



Amy Johnson specializes in the KonMari Method™ developed by world-renowned Japanese home organizer Marie Kondo.



Once you know what sparks joy in your home, you often see clearly what sparks joy in your life.

## What our members are saying

"As a proud member of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, I am amazed with the professionalism of the staff and their on-going support of referral business and referral partners. The Pleasanton Chamber, at every turn, helps to assure me that they are there for my business and will be a trusted team long into the future. My experience as a therapist for the past 20+ years is now being heralded by this fine organization, and I am honored to be what I consider...a valued member.

Steve, Kate, Dawn, Yianna and Susie, are experts at what they do, and we, as members, are fortunate to have them at the helm. This group of ladies, and gentleman, engage as mentors and directors, as they work hand-in-hand with the city to create and maintain those invaluable partnerships, that help bring unparalleled harmony and vibrancy.

Thank you, Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, for all that you do for my business, and the City of Pleasanton."



**Kimberly Curtis**  
Bridges Therapy  
Dublin, CA  
925-384-2600  
[kimcurtis@bridges-therapy.com](mailto:kimcurtis@bridges-therapy.com)



To learn more about Chamber membership, call Dawn at the Chamber 925.846.5858.

## Travel Destinations for 2020



### Alpine Lakes & Scenic Trains

**October 1-9, 2020**

\$4,899 pp double

Deadline to sign-up is March 26, 2020

Enjoy breathtaking Alpine vistas as you travel through Switzerland and Italy. Experience dramatic views while aboard railways and lake cruises in the heart of Europe.



### Treasures of Egypt

With Optional 3-night Jordan Post Tour Extension  
**October 13 – 26, 2020**

\$4,724 pp double

Deadline to sign-up is April 08, 2020

Step back in time and explore thousands of years of history, legend and lore as you view Egypt's timeless wonders.



### Tropical Costa Rica

**December 5-13, 2020**

\$2,549 pp double

Deadline to sign-up is May 29, 2020

Explore lush forests and stunning waterfalls...exotic wildlife and endless coastlines.

## Preview Information Meeting, March 18, 2020, 6:30pm

Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, 777 Peters Avenue, Pleasanton



### Amazing Danube River Cruise

**October 20-28, 2020**

Starting at \$3,899 pp double

Deadline to sign-up is April 20, 2020

Welcome aboard for a 7 night cruise visiting 4 European countries along the Danube. Our ports of call include Passau, Melk, Vienna, Budapest, Bratislava and Linz.

For Itineraries and more, visit [www.pleasanton.org/chamber-travel](http://www.pleasanton.org/chamber-travel)



## Business Spotlight

# Spectrum Community Services: enhancing quality of life and helping seniors age at home with dignity

Spectrum Community Services believes that every person deserves to live an active and healthy life. Every day, Spectrum provides nutritious meals, exercise classes and energy services to seniors and low-income residents of Alameda County.

### #MarchforMeals

March is a busy month for the staff and volunteers of Spectrum. #MarchforMeals is a month-long awareness campaign that recognizes the historic achievement of the Older Americans Act, signed in 1972. This legislation paved the way for Meals on Wheels, as we know it today - a public/private partnership to take care of our aging neighbors. The dedicated staff and volunteers who deliver these meals each week provide a vital lifeline and connection to the community, which is sometimes all it takes to keep our senior neighbors at home, where they want to be.

### Community Champions Week

During Community Champions week (March 16-20), local Meals on Wheels programs invite

local leaders to participate in an "Experience Day" and ride-a-long with a volunteer driver to deliver meals. You can sign-up by calling 925-483-1989.

### Feed the Need Events

Spectrum is excited to announce our Third Annual Feed the Need events, taking place on Friday, May 8 at the Oakland Coliseum and Thursday, October 1 at Concannon Winery. Spectrum is currently seeking event sponsors and teams for the Throwdown Competition - a fun, team-building bagged lunch making contest. These events help increase awareness and raise funds for the Meals on Wheels and Senior Meals programs, which provide nutritious meals, socialization and wellness and safety checks for Alameda County seniors. For more information on how to get involved, call 510-600-7729.

Founded in 1971, Spectrum Community Services is a registered, private non-profit organization that assists low-income individuals, families, and seniors in their efforts to live independently. They offer—in partnership with



Supervisor Nate Miley participates in #MarchforMeals by delivering a hot, nutritious lunch to a Tri-Valley senior.

local service organizations—a wide variety of community programs and services. Their long history of family tutorials and community outreach has advanced their mission of promoting their clients' financial sustainability and improving the overall quality of their lives.

Although Spectrum receives partial government funding, it does not meet the need in the Tri-Valley. They rely on generous gifts from individuals and organizations to help keep up with the ever-increasing demand. Anyone can donate a day's lunch money to ensure the

needs are being met for all of our Tri-Valley neighbors, at [www.SpectrumCS.org](http://www.SpectrumCS.org).

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COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.



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Gigi is a beautifully restored 1962 International Harvester firetruck with a genuine Valoriani pizza oven.

# We're Ready to Roll

**G**igi, the business, is what happens when life comes full circle in the most serendipitous, delicious way.

For the Howard family, the journey began in Naples, Italy where Jenny and Butch fell in love with each other...and with pizza. It's also the hometown of the company name-sake.

Fast forward a bit, through the raising of two daughters (Libby and Delaney), Jenny's 20+ years of catering and other culinary adventures, and eventually the adoption of a backyard pizza oven affectionately known as the Blue Beast. Toss in an itch to do something unique as a family and a restored antique fire engine and the Howard family partnership took root.

Say hello to a wood-fired pizza kitchen on wheels, fully equipped to make any event memorably delicious – Roll with Gigi, owned by Jenny and Butch Howard.

"Our goal as a team is to redefine event production with a unique, simple, and stylish delivery model while providing superb hospitality and extraordinary food," said Jenny Howard. "We believe in contemporary casualness, authentic relationships, the essence of community, and most importantly, fun! We take care of our guests and our staff as we would extended family, sharing our deep love

for people and for the warmth of connection, just as the real Gigi shared his zest for life with Jenny and Butch back in Naples."

### The Real Gigi

Gigi is the name of a dear Italian 'uncle' who worked with (and sort of adopted) Butch during a tour with the US Navy in Naples, Italy, and who later spread his adoration to Jenny, and their daughters. He epitomized the spirit of a true Neapolitan with his love of family, good food, and an appreciation for the pure joy of living.

Gigi, the man, now shares his name with the beautifully restored 1962 International Harvester firetruck and its genuine Valoriani pizza oven. Hand-crafted in Italy by the 5th generation of a world-renowned company, the oven was assembled in Sonoma, California by Mugnaini Imports, another amazing, family-owned company.

Gigi Catering offers lunch and dinner packages with pizza, salad and even s'mores. Pricing includes unlimited pizza for two hours of service plus any additional salads, sides, or desserts you may select. Additional a la carte items and bar packages are also available for both private and corporate functions. Learn more at [www.rollwithgigi.com](http://www.rollwithgigi.com).



Gigi offers a wide variety of pizzas, from the classics, to the crowd pleasers to specialty pies.



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# 40 YEARS

by your side


Please join **Hope Hospice** as we celebrate 40 years of caring for Tri-Valley hospice patients and their loved ones. At this special luncheon, you will learn about the key programs serving your community and how you can provide essential support to local families.

**Thursday, March 26, 2020**  
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Castlewood Country Club, Pleasanton

**Get tickets at [HopeHospice.com/byyourside](http://HopeHospice.com/byyourside)**



Keynote Speaker:  
**Kuljeet Multani, MD, HDMC**



Master of Ceremonies:  
**Dublin Mayor David Haubert**



## 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 look first to Chamber members for your business and consumer needs.

### 57 Years

Der Manouel Insurance Group,  
A Division of HUB International

### 45-49 Years

Alameda County Fair Association  
Pleasanton Ready Mix Concrete, Inc.  
Pleasanton Art League  
Can Am Plumbing, Inc.  
Gay Nineties Pizza Company

### 40-44 Years

Pleasanton Nursing and Rehab Center  
Pleasanton Rentals

### 35-39 Years

Callahan Property Company, Inc.  
Livermore-Amador Symphony  
Independent Newspaper and Magazine, The  
Ross Property Management Inc.  
Hacienda  
Hively

### 30-34 Years

Cirrus Law PC  
Law Offices of Phillips & Phillips,  
A Professional Corporation  
Silmar Flooring  
Black Tie Transportation  
Culligan Water Conditioning  
Michelotti, Sharrell

### 25-29 Years

Robert A. Tucknott, CFLC, CPE  
Barons Jewelers  
ENT Networks Inc.  
LogoBoss

### 20-24 Years

Westamerica Bank  
Fremont Bank  
HYATT house Pleasanton  
Faith Chapel Assembly of God  
Residence Inn by Marriott Pleasanton  
Pennell, Nancy  
Earl Anthony's Dublin Bowl

### 15-19 Years

Alexandria's Flowers  
Lawrence Mui-State Farm Insurance  
Turman Commercial Painters  
Crown Trophy  
Jue's Taekwon-Do  
Agape Villages Foster Family Agency  
Mohseni Real Estate Group at Compass  
Bratrude, Paul CPA  
Heartland Payroll  
East Bay SPCA  
Horizon Wealth Solutions  
Corporate Games, Inc.  
Pleasanton Glen Apartment Homes  
Dote, Tom - Farmers Insurance Group

### 10-14 Years

Wente Vineyards  
St. Clare's Episcopal Church

Diablo Prosthetics & Orthotics, Inc.  
From The Heart Home Care  
Pallesen & Butler Tax Service  
Park Place Appraisal Services  
University of San Francisco  
Pleasanton Campus  
The Franchise Consulting Company /  
Steve Taylor Independent Consultant  
Chevron Corporation  
StopWaste  
Chromagraphics

### 5-9 Years

Alliance Campaign Strategies  
California Collision  
Altamont Corridor Express (ACE)  
Duman Associates Custom Components  
and Marketing  
Narum, Kathy  
CAFO Partners, LLC  
Wall and Ceiling Alliance  
Neighborhood Market  
Primrose School of Pleasanton  
Armario Venema Homes  
Dan Thompson Accounting Services, Inc.  
Mirador Capital Partners  
QASource

### 1-4 Years

CarMax  
Pleasanton Diagnostic Imaging  
Veterans of Foreign Wars - Post 6298  
McKay's Tap House & Beer Garden  
Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty  
Go Green Initiative  
Aspire Realty Services  
Sunrise of Pleasanton  
Network Exchange  
Addiction Treatment Alternatives, LLC (ATA)  
Spectrum Community Services  
Bob Silva  
Reliable Concepts Corporation  
Karin Linforth, Broker  
Expedia CruiseShipCenters  
Bay Home & Window  
Nate Miley, Supervisor  
Orangetheory Fitness  
Pet Supplies Plus  
Creatif  
AYURWAY, INC.  
Nina Pomeroy Photography  
Tri-Valley Executives Association  
GeoJango, LLC  
Family Matters  
Curtis Fleming - Farmers Insurance  
Baker Financial Consulting, LLC  
RAM ASSOCIATES & CO LLC (CPA)  
The DeSilva Group  
Eileen Manger-Better Homes & Gardens  
Real Estate Reliance Partners  
Investment Real Estate Company  
Turbo Systems  
Futures Academy  
De La Torre's Trattoria

## Business Spotlight



Carol and Todd Moberg, pictured with their dog Jax, own Insignia Designs and love working with other businesses.

## Distinctive signs with your business in mind

Todd and Carol Moberg have lived in Pleasanton for many years. "I grew up here with my family and have raised my own children here as well," said Todd. "We always pride ourselves in being able to relate to our customers and enhance the signage of businesses in Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley. Although we are a small business, we have the capacity to handle almost any size job."

Todd used to work in medical sales. When his time in the industry came to an end, he wanted to establish himself in a business that would allow for personal growth as well as positive changes for his family. Todd and Carol looked into the sign industry and instantly became fascinated with the idea that they could provide marketing for other businesses, big and small, and take what Todd learned in sales and implement it into their business.

In 2012, Todd and Carol opened Insignia

Designs, offering distinctive signs with your business in mind. They can do exterior signs, interior signs, window graphics, lobby signs, vehicle wraps, tradeshow banners, and much more. Insignia Designs makes it their goal

to create excellent customer service and make sure your final product is exactly what you envisioned.

Todd and Carol take pride in their work and always love working with other businesses. The process for success includes site surveys, estimates, proof, fabrication and installation. This ensures that by the time the final product is ready, your expectations have been exceeded. Todd feels very fortunate to be

able to work in an industry that allows him to see his town grow and profit from their signs is an incredible feeling.

Learn more about Insignia Designs at [www.insigniadesigns.net](http://www.insigniadesigns.net). Insignia Designs is also on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and Yelp.

"Great service and nice people!!! I get all of my ice cream freezers wrapped here. They usually get my orders finished in 2-3 days. Todd, the owner, always responds to my calls, texts, or emails very quickly. If you need anything done, Insignia Designs is who you should call!"

— Yelp Review



Insignia Designs can do vehicle wraps as shown above, exterior signs, interior signs, window graphics, lobby signs, tradeshow banners, and much more.



Business Spotlight

Explore the taste of South America

Oyo Restaurant & Jive Bar now featuring new lunch menu

Maurice Dissels' first childhood memory of his grandmother, in the hope of making him a good Cajun cook, is feeding him a taste of her spicy chili sauce. He remembers crying in his high-chair. But he is smiling today as he works on the latest stage of his culinary development as the Executive Chef at Oyo.

A South American-born native of British Guyana, Dissels formally studied culinary arts with a strong background in Cajun/Caribbean cuisine and food science. He later moved to the United States, where he honed his crafts and skills at the culinary institute Grey Stone in Chicago. He also spent time in St. Helena of the Napa Valley and in restaurants from Colorado to the Bay Area.

Locally, Dissels shared his passion for cooking in restaurants such as Pasta Cuisine in Orinda, the Historical Pleasanton Hotel, where he served as executive chef for eight years, 840 North First, and Birk's where he was the executive chef for over 16 years. Working in such culturally and linguistically diverse kitchens gave Dissels not only the





Maurice Dissels is the founder and executive chef of Oyo Restaurant & Jive Bar.

love for the restaurant business, that still burns brightly inside him today, but also a deep appreciation for the different types of people that you might meet in any restaurant.

As the only restaurant in the East Bay to offer South American/Caribbean ambience/cuisine, Oyo is thrilled to introduce its new lunch menu. Look for items such as a jerk chicken lunch plate with coconut rice and sweet plantains, an individual serving of paella and their award-winning pumpkin soup.

Coming to Oyo this Spring is a traditional weekend brunch with a twist, with a rum-based cocktail program featuring honey moejitos, passion fruit caipirinhas and pina colodas. Also coming soon are a happy hour as well as a steel drum band on Thursdays and Saturdays. Family owned and operated, Oyo is located at 680 Main Street in downtown Pleasanton and is open Tuesday through Friday 11:15 to 2:30 and 5:15 to 9:30, and Saturday and Sunday 11:15 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Learn more at [www.oyopleasanton.com](http://www.oyopleasanton.com).

Business Spotlight

Your trusted credit card partner

New Star Payments is the company that thrives on the future of payments and Social Media marketing. They have been in the payment industry for more than 30 years, and they know that the industry is constantly changing and that is why they believe in delivering cutting-edge products, as well as top-notch customer service.

"We integrate with many different software and POS systems," said Tiffany Johnson of New Star Payments. "We provide a variety of merchant accounts for retail, moto, virtual terminals, recurring payments, E-commerce, and payment gateways. We also have value-added marketing services to help a business grow. We are basically a merchant account tool shed."

"We know that terminals will eventually be extinct as the future progresses, and we are on top of the industry trends and changes," said Johnson.

Business owners are rapidly



Tiffany Johnson

switching to New Star's Cash Discount program because it's eliminating all credit card fees, and allowing them to use the money for other areas of their business. "I would love to explain how this program works and see if it can put \$2-3k back into your bank account each month," said Johnson. The Cash Discount program allows you to pay a flat fee each month.

"We all need someone we can trust and rely on, it's tough to do it all. I'm here to answer any questions you have may have related to the merchant industry," said Johnson. "I do provide a free quote, and if you are in fact setup well with your current provider, I will let you know."

Learn more about New Star Payments at [www.newstarpayments.com](http://www.newstarpayments.com) or call Tiffany Johnson at 925-230-0984.





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## Ribbon Cuttings

Creating new jobs, stronger economy



Boutique feel, world-class results

**Elation Real Estate** – Elation Real Estate is a boutique residential real estate brokerage that is focused on providing a highly personalized service to their clients while also providing the reach, benefits and offerings of a large company. Lead by Gina Piper, a Pleasanton native and one of Pleasanton's most successful and recognizable Realtors, Elation is a team of hand-picked agents, including her partner Viviana Cherman, that share in the same values and adhere to the highest ethics while representing their client's needs and interests. Learn more at [www.ElationRE.com](http://www.ElationRE.com).



Dedicated to the well-being of your family and the community

**The Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy** – The Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy is proud to be back open in Pleasanton under NEW OWNERSHIP. Beyond filling prescriptions, they offer FREE local delivery, easy transfers, complimentary medication consultations, specialty medications, supplements, and more. They are also working to add other services, including immunizations. The Medicine Shoppe is conveniently located on the first floor of John Muir Health, and they are excited to partner with other independent businesses in the future. Stop by and visit The Medicine Shoppe at 5860 Owens Drive, Suite 130 in Pleasanton. They are offering 15% off over-the-counter products when you mention the Ribbon Cutting ceremony.



At-home enrichment and basic skills education for all ages

**Axel Gonzalez Tutoring** – Axel Gonzalez Tutoring is a tutoring network providing at-home enrichment and basic skills education for all ages, from K-12 and college level to working adults. Based in Pleasanton and serving the breadth of the East Bay, from Concord in the north to Sunnyvale in the south, Axel Gonzalez Tutoring teaches with a modern, fluid philosophy that centers the student's needs and abilities and imparts life skills that matter beyond the classroom. For more information and to schedule a consultation, visit [AxelGonzalezTutoring.com](http://AxelGonzalezTutoring.com) or contact Axel S. Gonzalez by phone at 925.949.3995 or through email at [asgcaliforniafaffs@outlook.com](mailto:asgcaliforniafaffs@outlook.com).

## Business Spotlight

## "I approach every single assignment with a story in mind. Your story."

Starting as a travel photographer 20 years ago, Nina Pomeroy quickly moved into portraiture after studying the many facets of lighting and posing while living and working in New York City. Working with people really felt like her "calling" as she is able to connect and put her subjects at ease in a way that is conveyed in her very natural and authentic portraits.

Loving to travel the world, she was selling her work independently and then landed one of her first gallery shows in NYC. This was her "a-ha" moment and gave her the idea to move into this profession full time, leaving her established Wall Street career behind.

"My favorite part of the business is meeting and connecting with people," said Nina. "The greatest gift is hearing how much someone loves their portraits and how much fun they had during the session. After all, photos are your legacy – to family, friends and even to business." Her business has grown over two decades strictly based on referrals.

Working with senior citizens is something very close to her heart. She grew up with her grandmother in New York, and she was her First Best Friend - hence the name of her ongoing project. With over four gallery shows of the work back east, she is seeking to bring



Nina Pomeroy

awareness to these one-of-a-kind portraits, capturing the remarkable relationship between a grandparent and a grandchild. After all, these photos are for your grandchildren, and their grandchildren. She is working with a publisher to create a book of her work from this series and is looking for some Tri-Valley people to participate.

"I believe in living each day with gratitude. As a cancer survivor every single day is a gift. And every person you meet is someone special," said Nina. As a breast

cancer survivor, she volunteers her time and efforts to a local charity of her friend Lisa Norman called For the Love of Cups. This non-profit provides access to advanced screening so that all are given a fighting chance and benefit from an early

*"Known for a fun and collaborative vibe, I'm always looking for unique ways to get 'the shot.' With numerous exhibits and publications worldwide in magazines and books, I love to create timeless art."*

— Nina Pomeroy

diagnosis.

Feel free to set up a free discovery call to learn more about her services by emailing [studio@ninapomeroy.com](mailto:studio@ninapomeroy.com) or calling 203.613.8978.



nina pomeroy photography

## Porky's

(continued from page 1)

Fizz along with many others. Porky's Pizza Palace invites everyone from the community to attend this tribute event.

Porky's was first founded in 1963 by the Marrone family, becoming a premier spot in the Washington Manor area of San Leandro. Porky's was purchased in 1983, by the elder Valenziano family, upon moving from Illinois.

Today, Porky's Pizza Palace in Pleasanton is a favorite spot among many Tri-Valley citizens, and those who are pizza lovers from all over the East Bay.

Porky's Pizza Palace is located at 2911 Hopyard Road in Pleasanton.



The Valenziano Family has owned and operated Porky's Pizza Palace since 1983.

## "The SECURE Act - What Employers Need to Know"

### Tuesday, March 17th

11:30 am - 1:30 pm

KarPark, 3 Wyoming Street #100, Pleasanton, CA



Michael Rom  
Principal,  
Pensionmark



Leadership Luncheon Series  
\*No Charge - RSVP Required