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Meet the Community Service Award Honorees

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. While the community and honorees were unable to gather and celebrate in person earlier this year as originally planned due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to have the opportunity to formally recognize and congratulate the outstanding honorees for the 57th Annual Community Service Awards. The efforts of these individuals and organizations make a real difference in the quality of life for everyone in Pleasanton.

Community members had the opportunity to nominate deserving businesses, non-profit organizations and citizens for the awards, which annually celebrate the amazing people who go the extra mile to make Pleasanton a great place to live and do business.

The 57th Annual Community Service Awards are proudly sponsored by Black Tie Transportation, Chevron and Golden 1 Credit Union as well as Moving Perceptions, Ritter Investments and United Business Bank.

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.

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



Distinguished Individual Service
BERNIE BILLEN



Chevron Teacher Award
JONATHAN GRANTHAM



Lifetime Achievement
VIC MALATESTA



Business Philanthropy
UNCLE CREDIT UNION



Excellence in Business
BUMBLEBEE MARKETING SERVICES



Excellence in Service
SPECTRUM COMMUNITY SERVICES



Green Business
EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

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GOLD

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Pleasanton Campus

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Congratulations to the Community Service Award Honorees

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Distinguished Individual Service BERNIE BILLEN

Whether serving on a committee, being a member of several local organizations, having a banking relationship, or being a friend, Bernie Billen is dedicated to whatever she pursues. The beginnings of Bernie's community spirit started when she came to Pleasanton in 1979 and joined the Newcomers Club. From then on, Bernie has immersed herself in many organizations and activities in Pleasanton. She served as treasurer for the Pleasanton/Tulareño Sister City Association, keeping their finances in order and being involved with their fundraisers. She was an active member of the Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Committee and was recognized for her recruitment and retention efforts in 2006 as the Ambassador of the Year. Bernie received the Carol Bush award from the Chamber, which recognizes a volunteer for their outstanding contributions to the organization. The Pleasanton Downtown Association also acknowledged Bernie's efforts on two different occasions with the Arch Angel Award for her dedication on committees and its events. Bernie was a key figure in the City's Centennial Celebration in 1994 and was an active coordinator of the Pleasanton Hometown Holiday Parade for decades. Recently retired from United Business Bank in downtown Pleasanton, Bernie is currently serving on the boards of both the Pleasanton Downtown Association and Hively (formerly Child Care Links).



Chevron Teacher Award JONATHAN GRANTHAM

Jonathan Grantham is a Grammy nominated educator who has led the Dons to the national stage multiple times from marching band competitions to the Amador Valley Wind Ensemble being invited to play at the prestigious Midwest Clinic in Chicago twice in the last six years. As director of bands at Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton, Grantham leads a band program of 350 students involved in five concert ensembles, three jazz bands, a competitive marching band, various chamber ensembles, two winter percussion units, and two winter guards. In his 19 years at Amador Valley, the band program has grown to triple in size and the ensembles have earned consistent superior ratings and high honors. He is also an avid bike rider who cycles across the country to raise money for HIV/AIDS research. Most importantly, he has inspired a team of super band parents who go by 'Amador Friends of Music' that lead fundraisers, coordinate events and provide food to the Marching Dons after their evening practices. He has created a music community at Amador that is world class and second to none.



Lifetime Achievement VIC MALATESTA

Vic Malatesta owned and operated Vic's All Star Kitchen in downtown Pleasanton since 1994. He recently sold the popular breakfast and lunch spot with a sports theme to enjoy family time as well as some travel in retirement. Vic's family has been in the restaurant business for as long as he can remember and after several years of managing restaurants and in food and beverage management, he had the opportunity to do something he had always dreamed about. He combined his love of sports with his passion for good food to create a solid dining experience with a local sports theme. Vic's concept of a community restaurant recognizing youth is what made Vic's All Star Kitchen a popular place for local residents. Vic's community involvement with Pleasanton began in the 1970s, coaching youth soccer and baseball. He then went on to the booster club for Foothill High School and spent 33 years as a member of Foothill's chain gang at home football games. He has chaired the Pleasanton Downtown Association, the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis Club of Pleasanton.



Business Philanthropy UNCLE CREDIT UNION

Over the past 60 years, UNCLE Credit Union has grown to more than \$543 million in assets, 29,000 members, and continues to evolve as they strive to provide a seamless experience for their members with an array of innovative products and exceptional service. Throughout their history, UNCLE Credit Union has been a leading contributor to the communities they serve. They have initiated and led impactful programs supporting financial education and are a major contributor to local nonprofits and events focused on health and human services, community-centered economic development, innovation, research and the arts. A few of the organizations they have supported include: Relay for Life, Pleasanton Rotary, Pleasanton Downtown Association, Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation and Amador Valley and Foothill High Schools. UNCLE has excelled at providing opportunities for its employees to find fulfillment in work and in service to the larger community.

Excellence in Business BUMBLEBEE MARKETING SERVICES

The community of Pleasanton is near and dear to the hearts of the BumbleBee Marketing Services team—after all, this is where Ellen Pensky founded the company 19 years ago. Ellen was a one-woman show working out of her home with a vision to create buzz for clients, and of course, that's where their name comes from. Over the years, marketing technologies and tools have changed, and the company has also. They've grown into a busy hive with many team members that have worked together for over a decade. They have long term relationships with large companies like Cisco, AT&T, BT and many other household names but their heart is with the local com-



munity. BumbleBee Marketing helped launch the Firehouse Arts venue and the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. They've helped market local wineries and put together programs for the Pleasanton Partnerships in Education. Among their local clients are Cloud advisors Packet Fusion, Quest Science Center and Tri Valley Nonprofit Association among others. Ellen is a founding member of the Pleasanton Community of Character, and she and her team have donated their talents to help many well-deserving organizations. The Queen Bee and her hive have deep roots in Pleasanton, and they are always eager to help businesses create buzz.



Excellence in Service SPECTRUM COMMUNITY SERVICES

Spectrum Community Services serves more than just a meal to over 270 homebound Tri-Valley residents each day. As a non-profit organization that assists low-income individuals, families, and seniors in their efforts to live independently in the Tri-Valley, they not only serve Meals on Wheels, they also provide LIHEAP - Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program - for PG&E utility bills and energy efficiency. Spectrum's Meals-on-Wheels program delivered over 55,000 meals last year. Dedicated Meals-on-Wheels volunteers deliver a nutritious meal, a safety check and the smile that serve as a lifeline to seniors of limited mobility. Enabling seniors to stay in their own homes means they remain happier, extend their independence and can stay connected to the communities and surroundings that provide them comfort. As seniors in Alameda County are still facing food insecurity and isolation, Spectrum is serving more seniors now than ever before providing meals to both homebound and mobile seniors.



Green Business EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

The East Bay Regional Park District is a system of beautiful parklands and trails in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, comprising nearly 125,000 acres in 73 parks, including over 1,250 miles of trails. The district is a strong supporter of green sustainable practices and programs. Recent projects include an installation of a solar panel shade structure and parking landscape at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park; drought-resistant grasses planted in response to changing climate and watered using recycled water; completion of Courdet Trail providing a two-mile long multiuse trail for hiking, biking and equestrian use allowing access into Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park; institution of a Climate Smart Initiative committing the Park District to mitigating and adapting to a changing climate by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and developing nature-based protection from the climate change impacts.

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