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Rebuilding the chamber is the focus for 2022

It's an honor to be serving as the 2022 Chair of the Board of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce. After being involved in numerous chamber programs, such as Ambassador Committee, Pleasanton Young Professionals, Community Foundation Board, and Leadership Pleasanton, it's very special to me to be serving our community as Board Chair.

Emerging from a second year of a pandemic and many virtual events, we will focus on "rebuilding" as our theme for 2022. We want to grow

our circle of influence members and bring back our CEO Round Table event, where we will invite Mayor Karla Brown, our new City Manager, and other city leaders to meet and discuss important issues impacting our business community. We will relaunch in-person tradeshow mixers. These events showcase the diverse businesses of our chamber members and are a ton of fun to attend. We also look forward to celebrating local heroes at our annual Community Service Awards event. This may be celebrating women



Kim Damiani
2022 Chair
of the Board

leaders or celebrating our first responders, who have worked harder than ever during the pandemic. We are excited to see where this takes us.

Increasing our chamber membership base is more important than ever. We will be asking our board of directors, ambassadors, and chamber members, to invite prospective members to events and to make a strong effort to share the various member benefits. It's also our intention to improve and increase our relations with our elected government officials. Working together with the city, we will ensure Pleasanton remains as the premier place to both live

and work. Last, we want to reactivate our "Chair's Crew," where we can bring together our past chamber board chairs, to provide support and guidance as we look to accomplish our goal of rebuilding the Pleasanton Chamber. Our business community needs advocates now more than ever, and we will continue to collaborate with some of the brightest leaders who have served our chamber.

It's a privilege to serve our members and community with my fellow board members, and we look forward to a successful year ahead!

Kim Damiani, CFP®

Financial Advisor

Summit Financial Group, LLC

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Mayor Brown's State of the City address set for March 29

The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce is pleased to present State of the City Pleasanton 2022, featuring Mayor Karla Brown. Everyone in the community is invited to hear Mayor Brown's first in-person State of the City address, set for Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at 11:30 a.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton Pleasanton at The Club.

"I look forward to sharing this year's update with the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce and the community at the State of the City address," said Mayor Brown. "I invite Pleasanton residents and businesses to learn about the projects and programs our city has been working on, and some of

the exciting initiatives on the horizon that will help ensure our city's growth, vitality, and stability in the years to come."

Following her election in November 2020, Brown is serving her first term as Mayor of the City of Pleasanton, preceded by serving two terms on the Pleasanton City Council. Her inaugural State of the City address was given virtually in March of 2021 due to the pandemic. Mayor Brown currently serves on multiple regional and city committees, boards and commissions. She has worked as an Associate Broker/Real Estate Agent since 2002 and has held a Real Estate Broker's license since 2007.

Mayor Brown has lived in

Pleasanton for 29 years during which she has supported many organizations. She has volunteered with RAGE youth soccer as a coach, the Tri-Valley Conservancy, Hively, Valley Humane Society, and she has held positions as a Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Liaison and School Site Council for Pleasanton schools. When not working, she enjoys playing tennis, walking, hiking, bicycling, and spending time with her family.

"Through our conversations, it's clear Mayor Brown has a big heart for the Pleasanton community," said chamber board chair Kim Damiani of Summit Financial Group. "This in-person luncheon will be a great event to reconnect with city leaders and our community members and hear about the city's priorities for

2022," said Damiani.

Sponsors of the event include Alameda County Fair, Amos Productions, Bay East Association of REALTORS®, CEMEX, Chabot Las Positas Community College District, The Clorox Company, Hoge Fenton, Resurrection Greek Orthodox Church, Safeway, Sensiba San Filippo LLP, Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare and UNCLE Credit Union. A limited number of sponsorships are still available. Email susie@pleasanton.org for details.

The luncheon event is a collaborative effort between the City of Pleasanton and the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce. Tickets to attend are available at www.pleasanton.org, \$50 per attendee through March 11, \$60 beginning March 12.

EVENT SPONSORS



Chamber CEO announces retirement this spring

After a 25-year career in the chamber of commerce industry, Steve Van Dorn, President/CEO of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, has announced his retirement effective May 1, 2022.

"I have really enjoyed my four years at the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce. It has been my dream job, very rewarding and certainly challenging due to the pandemic," said Van Dorn. "Thanks to an awesome team, engaged board of directors and a very supportive membership,

the chamber is in a strong position to continue its leadership in advocating for the business community," he said.

Van Dorn began at the Pleasanton Chamber in August of 2018 and noted the update of the chamber's Pleasanton 2025: A Community Vision as one of the highlights of his tenure. Other accomplishments he is proud of are celebrating the chamber's 75th anniversary and acknowledging the 2020 community service award winners in-person last fall.

"With my wife recently retired,

we are planning to travel, take more walks and visit fun places during the week instead of on the weekends," said Van Dorn. "I'm looking forward to spending time doing things I currently never find the time to do."

Van Dorn is a past board chairman of the Western Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (WACE) and past chair of the City of Pleasanton's Economic Vitality Committee. He is the current President of The Rotary Club of Pleasanton's Foundation, a role he plans to continue into retirement.

"Steve brought an outgoing and positive outlook to the chamber," said chamber board chair Kim Damiani of Summit Financial

Group. "He was always willing to listen and engage with our members, volunteers and community leaders to be sure the chamber was providing programs and initiatives that were important to their success."

"We're also thankful for his assistance with a comprehensive search effort that is currently in process," continued Damiani. "With Steve's help and efforts of our dedicated board of directors, we anticipate a seamless transition."

The chamber board of directors has hand-picked a search committee to engage in all aspects of the hiring process for Van Dorn's replacement, which they plan to have in place by late spring or early summer.



Steve Van Dorn
Pleasanton
Chamber
President/CEO