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James Cooper

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

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Partnering on the road to success this summer in Pleasanton

This summer will bring a variety of engaging events for our Pleasanton community.

The chamber is hosting an interactive trade-show mixer on May 11 at Omron Robotics and Safety Technologies. This event is open to the community and free of charge. This is wonderful way to see many of our Pleasanton businesses showcasing their unique offerings. First Weekends on Main kicks off in May where the streets will be closed to allow for a leisurely stroll to downtown businesses on the first weekend of the month. Each month will have a theme and fun activities.

In June, there's concerts in the park on Friday evenings (except the first Friday) at Wayside Park, and Movies in the Park on Thursdays at Amador Valley Community Park

starting at the end of June.

Also in June, the chamber will be hosting an economic development



Kim Damiani
2022 Chair
of the Board

event in partnership with the City of Pleasanton. This event highlights companies headquartered in Pleasanton that add strength to our community through innovation and cutting-edge ideas in areas such as biotech, pharmaceutical manufacturing and emerging technologies. It is exciting to see how Pleasanton has become the premier destination for innovation and entrepreneurship here in the Tri-Valley. Look for more information on this event at www.pleasanton.org soon.

The Alameda County Fair kicks off on June 17 and we can't wait to check out the concert series as well as all the wonderful food, rides, and exhibits. You might catch me at

the deep-fried dessert station.

July will bring our Salute to Partnerships Joint Mixer and BBQ with the Pleasanton Downtown Association and the City of Pleasanton. This annual event draws well over 200 people and features a BBQ dinner in the beautiful setting of Barone's Backyard. The event is sponsored by the chamber foundation and brings the chamber, Pleasanton Downtown Association, City employees and commissioners together. In the past, the CEOs of each organization have joined the Mayor, the police chief and fire chief on the serving line. Tickets will be available for purchase to all members of our community and is free to attend if you are a Leadership Pleasanton Alumni, City employee, and chamber Circle of Influence member.

Applications for Leadership Pleasanton are still being accepted for the 2022-23 class starting in September. Apply today on the

chamber website www.pleasanton.org. In September of each year, up to 30 local adults from all walks of life begin participating in nine, monthly, day-long sessions on topics of Pleasanton history, government, education, recreation, business, public safety, health and infrastructure. Many graduates go on to volunteer for local community non-profits, service clubs, youth sports, and city commissions. This program is designed to develop community leaders and since its creation in 1988, has produced more than 755 graduates in its 30-plus years. As a 2015 graduate, I can confirm how empowering this program is.

At the chamber, we are proud of all our valuable partnerships here in the community. We are looking forward to all these opportunities to connect with you, together.

Kim Damiani, CFP®

Financial Advisor

Summit Financial Group, LLC

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Pleasanton Chamber names James Cooper as next President/CEO

The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce announced that its Board of Directors has named James Cooper as President/CEO of the organization. Cooper succeeds current President/CEO Steve Van Dorn, who recently retired after a 25-year career as a chamber executive. Cooper will begin on June 1, 2022.

"We are confident that James will represent our business community with compassion and professionalism. His experiences not only make him well-positioned to lead our chamber, but also complement the economic initiatives our city has been focusing on," said chamber board chair Kim Damiani of Summit Financial Group.

Born in Southern California but raised in the Bay Area since 1968, Cooper is a native Californian who transplanted to Vallejo in 2009. He got to know the community first as

a Business Services Representative for the Workforce Investment Board of Solano County before delving into the chamber of commerce world starting in early 2011.



James Cooper
Pleasanton
Chamber
President/CEO

Cooper worked at the Novato Chamber of Commerce as its Membership Manager before taking over as President/CEO of the American Canyon Chamber of Commerce, where he served for nearly four years. In late 2016, he was hired to take over as President/CEO of the Vallejo Chamber of Commerce, which he has led for the last five years. Cooper also served as Interim Executive Director for the Benicia Chamber of Commerce during the COVID pandemic, providing executive-level support at a time when that chamber had no staff. He is a graduate of the Western Association of Chamber

Executives (W.A.C.E.) and holds an MBA (Global Management emphasis) and an undergraduate degree in Business Management.

"I am honored to be given the opportunity to guide the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce in its role with helping local businesses grow," said Cooper. "My focus is for the chamber to be relevant to its members and the community. This only happens when we understand their concerns and collaborate on the solutions. For our voice to be heard, we must first be willing to listen," he said.

Prior to moving to Vallejo, Cooper spent nearly 15 years in the real estate industry as a Corporate Marketing Director, General Manager, and Real Estate Salesperson. Other professional experience includes serving in the U.S. Air Force (Security Policy, K-9 Handler) and running a dog training academy. James is married with two daughters, one in college and the other a senior in high school. He and his wife own a small

bed-and-breakfast on an island off the coast of Madagascar, his wife's home country. His personal passions include music, movies, sports, traveling, and spending time with his family.

"The greatest joy I get from my role as Chamber President is when I hear from a member that the chamber made a difference for them. We are a resource to be tapped, rich with information and connections benefiting businesses. Our job is to make sure members know we can help, and how," said Cooper.

"James has an impressive professional background, and we are confident his approach will help the chamber fulfill its vision and mission over the years to come," said Damiani.

The Pleasanton Chamber is organized to benefit business by being the catalyst for business and economic growth, the convener of leaders and influencers, and the champion for a stronger and healthy community.

Popular tradeshows return, complimentary admission May 11

After a two-and-a-half-year hiatus due to the COVID pandemic, the Pleasanton Chamber is pleased to announce the return of its popular tradeshow mixer events. Scheduled for the spring and fall of 2022, the tradeshow mixers are open to everyone in the community and represent a great opportunity to network with local businesses in a fun and interactive setting.

OMRON Robotics and Safety Technologies is set to host the spring tradeshow mixer on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, while the Alameda County Fairgrounds will host the fall tradeshow mixer

on Wednesday, November 9, 2022.

The tradeshow mixers have traditionally been the most well-attended chamber functions of the year, featuring delicious food, wine and beer tastes from local restaurants. Vendors showcase their products and services with their table-top displays, often with raffle prizes, tchotchke items and other giveaways.

Companies and organizations that are exhibiting can promote themselves, connect with local business and community leaders, and grow their customer base. Being an exhibitor is one benefit of chamber membership and

attracts businesses from a variety of industries looking to network with others who are invested in the region. Online vendor registration is open at www.pleasanton.org, with the cost for chamber members to exhibit at \$300.

The May 11 event will be the first in-person tradeshow since the fall of 2019. In an effort to boost attendance as in-person events make their way back into the mainstream, the chamber has made general admission to attend the spring tradeshow complimentary to everyone in the community. Guests can register in advance to attend the event at www.pleasanton.org.

Pleasanton Chamber Spring Tradeshow Mixer

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

OMRON

**4225 Hacienda Drive,
Pleasanton**

*Open to everyone
in the community,
complimentary admission*

Food, drink, prizes, fun

www.pleasanton.org