

Rotary

Rotary Club of Pleasant Hill



The PLEASANTREE
APRIL 17, 2025



[CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE](#)



THIS WEEK'S MEETING
McHale Room Pleasant Hill
Community Center
Denise Koroslov
Rodgers Ranch Update
Gather 12:15 PM
Meeting Starts 12:30 PM

Last Week at Rotary with Chief Scott Vermillion

With President Diane once again at the helm, we welcomed Pleasant Hill's very own Police Chief, Scott Vermillion, as our guest speaker. Chief Vermillion has been serving our community since 2000, rising through the ranks to Captain in 2020 and proudly becoming Chief in 2022.



He painted a strong and reassuring picture of Pleasant Hill as a safe city—thanks to the dedication and professionalism of the PHPD. The department is made up of 44 sworn officers and 15 non-sworn personnel, with core operations centered on patrol and investigations. Patrol shifts run around the clock in 12-hour blocks (6 AM–6 PM), split across four hardworking teams.

In 2024, the department ran five targeted theft suppression operations that led to 39 arrests and over \$200,000 returned to fraud victims—amazing work! They also recovered 25 firearms

during arrests and handled around 25,000 calls for service, which is about average for the year.

Chief Vermillion also shared that property crimes—mostly shoplifting—make up 92% of all crime in Pleasant Hill. While 2024 saw a rare and tragic spike in homicides (two incidents resulting in three deaths), all victims were targeted, not random, and six arrests have been made—each suspect residing outside Pleasant Hill.

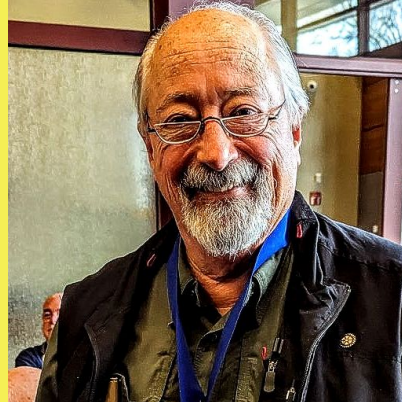
Looking ahead to 2025, the PHPD will be increasing their focus on DUI enforcement, with a goal to reduce DUI offenses by 20%. Chief Vermillion's insights gave us all a deeper appreciation for the challenges and commitment behind keeping our city safe.

Big thanks to Chief Vermillion for his service—and for joining us with such an informative and thoughtful presentation!



HAPPY DOLLARS





Susan Wood

☐ Donated Happy Dollars to celebrate the arrival of her new Granddaughter — welcome to the world, Ellie Ann Bañuelos! ☐ Born March 28th at 5:41 AM, weighing in at 7 lbs 13 oz and measuring 20 inches of pure sweetness! ☐☐

Big sis Riley (born exactly 19 months earlier!) is already stepping up and learning the ropes — with plenty of excitement, hugs, and probably a few toys to share. ☐☐

Alan Thompson

☐ Generously donated \$100 Happy Dollars to the Club—because what's better than quality time with all four of his grandsons☐☐☐☐

Grateful, joyful, and probably a little exhausted — but every moment was worth it! ☐☐☐☐ Thanks for sharing the love (and the grandpa energy)!

Andrei Obolenskiy

☐ Generously donated \$100 Happy Dollars to the Club in honor of a fantastic family getaway to Puerto Vallarta! ☐☐☐

The grand finale? Horseback riding on their last night — a ride down memory lane for him, and pure excitement for his youngest son, who absolutely loved being in the saddle! ☐☐

Family fun, beach vibes, and big smiles all around! ☐☐☐



Elizabeth Chapple

😊 Happily and generously donated \$100 Happy Dollars just for the joy of being back at a club meeting after some time away!

It's always a great day when you get to see familiar faces, share some laughs, and reconnect with good friends. So glad to be back in the mix! ☐

☐☐☐



Kim Grossberg

Graciously donated Happy Dollars toward her PHF, expressing heartfelt appreciation to the club for its longstanding support of the Diablo Valley Relay for Life. This includes the most recent contribution to the 2025 Relay for Life, which helps fund vital cancer research and supports the fight against this disease.



Faye Donaghu

☐ BIG WINNER ALERT!

Huge congratulations to Faye on pulling off an incredible double win!

Not only did she have the winning raffle ticket, but she also picked the yellow golf ball from the bag, securing the \$170 jackpot! ☐♀☐

This is what we call a winning streak! ☐

Congratulations again on another successful raffle win, Faye! ☐

Upcoming Events

Rotary

Rotary Club of Pleasant Hill



Activity Schedule

**SAT
APRIL
19**

DIABLO VALLEY 8 (DV8)

**BBQ-SOCIAL
SUGARLOAF PARK
WALNUT CREEK**

**THUR
APRIL
24**

OFFSITE MEETING
Steven's Printing
Pleasant Hill

**THUR
MAY
1**

REGULAR MEETING
Terry Mullin
PACE Healthcare

**Fri-Sun
MAY
2-4**

**DISTRICT 5160
CONFERENCE**
Marriott Hotel
San Ramon

**THUR
MAY
8**



SPECIAL WORK MEETING

Stephanie Prescott
LadyBug Program
LadyBug Kit Assembly

**TUE
MAY
13**

BOARD MEETING
WiseGirl Restaurant
5PM

**THUR
MAY
15**

REGULAR MEETING
Dresda E. Mendez de la Brena
Women Forward International

What's Happening

THIS WEEKEND

Rotary
District 5160



DV8

BBOQ Party



Join Rotarians and
their families and
guests from our 8
Diablo Valley Clubs
under the beautiful
Pergolas at Sugarloaf
Open Space Walnut
Creek
Food, Wine Activities

Sat April 19

ENTRY: \$20
Kids Eat Free

1-4PM

RSVP AG
Cathy Durfee

2151 Youngs Valley, Walnut Creek

[CLICK HERE TO SEND RSVP TO AG DURFEE](#)



Rotary District 5160

A "DON'T MISS" District Conference

RE/CONNECT 2025

OUR ROTARY FAMILY REUNION

May 2-4, 2025

FORCE MULTIPLIERS FOR GOOD!

[REGISTER HERE TODAY!!!](#)



RE/CONNECT 2025 AT A GLANCE
It's time for a big, spectacular, awe-inspiring

The poster features several circular images: a glowing tree, a couple smiling, a person in a wheelchair with arms raised, and Star Wars characters. The background has a yellow and white swirl pattern.

Never been to a Rotary District Conference? *Now's your chance!*

Your Board of Directors has approved a special District Conference Subsidy Program just for you! The first **3 club members** who have been members of our club for less than 10 years but have never attended a Rotary District Conference are eligible to receive 50% off their 2025 D5160 Conference registration— that's up to \$192.50 in savings!

Interested? Just let Prez Diane know you'd like to apply. Don't miss this

awesome opportunity to experience the fun, inspiration, and fellowship of a district conference!

Break-out Session 1 - 9:45-10:30 am

Women Pioneers - Rotary and Beyond

Sylvia Whitlock

Anne Matthews

Brian Rusch moderates a discussion with Sylvia Whitlock, the first woman Rotary Club President, and RI Representative Anne Matthews, the first woman to serve as Executive Vice Presidents on the Rotary International Board.

Are You Happy?

Author, national speaker, content creator and fellow Rotarian, William Wesley, knows the importance of well being for ourselves, those we love and those we serve. Explore the four factors of daily happiness that enhance our joy.

The Children's Foundation

Learn about the work the Foundation is doing in Uganda Africa to change the lives of children, women and villages. All programs can be shared and duplicated in developing countries. Their motto? "A hand up, not a hand out."

Positive Peace is a Super Power

This session focuses on harnessing the power of positive peace. See how the 8 pillars of positive peace can be used to build stable and resilient environments that can withstand and mediate the conflicts that are the human experience. - personal, professional and societal.

Break-out Session 2 - 10:45-11:30 am

Becoming a Voice for the Voiceless

Be inspired by award winning filmmaker Paul Freedman as he shares his journey of bringing a voice and face to human rights struggles around the world. His stories bring out the humanity of people facing genocide, coping with PTSD, losing a parent, struggling to make a life living on the streets, and so much more.

Changing the world one Teen at a Time

Youth Exchange is where Rotarians build peace through goodwill and friendship every day! Hear from our now and future peace builders as they share their experiences and impressions exchanging with the US from Germany and Bolivia; Taiwan from the US; and getting ready to head out to France..

CIVIL DISCOURSE

How can we connect or reconnect with those with different opinions and viewpoints of matters big and small? In our homes, our places of employment, with friends and colleagues alike? Listen and HEAR! Civil Discourse is an undertaking Dan leads monthly in his Rotary club. Learn their secret!

What is AI? (Hint: It's not Allen Iverson)

Is it time to learn a little bit more about Artificial Intelligence (AI)? Maybe see in real time how AI can make every day tasks we undertake as Rotarians quick and easy? If you

have a fundraiser to plan, are searching for new service project ideas, or developing a new membership plan - This session is for you!

Building a more vibrant, inclusive rotary

Learn about Rotary's commitment to diversity, equity & inclusion from a founding member of Rotary's DEI Join Advisory Council. Learn how to gauge where your club is on it's journey of inclusion, how we can meet club members where they are, and how we can all do something so people feel they belong.

Break-out Session 3 - 1:45-2:30 pm

The Wheelchair Foundation

Have you ever distributed wheelchairs to those in need? Hear stories from those that have and be ready to sign-up! Through District Governor Dan's embrace of wheelchair distributions for our 2024-25 International project, our members have raised funds, matched by the Foundation, to fill 5 containers of chairs.

Healing our divides

Through demonstrations and practice, participants will see how evidence-based tools to lower distress and strengthen connection & goodwill, as learned during lunch, work to build connections across our differences - whether those differences are personal, professional or societal. Practice connecting conversations from your own life to support

The Philippine medical Society

Partnering with other organizations that share our goals is one critical way to expand our reach and increase our impact. The Philippine Medical Society of Northern California is one such organization. Learning about their history and good works, as you imagine the power of connections. Teaser: Do you know the role the Philippines played in our Polio eradication efforts?

A mother's journey with autism

Learn through Margaret's unique perspective as she shares the challenges of raising a child with autism. Her son, Robbie Messer, will be joining her. Robbie, the founder and CEO of Autism Quest.

Pleasant Hill **NIGHT MARKET**

*Inaugural + AANHPI
Celebration*

MAY 2, 2025

5:00-9:00 PM

**CHILPANCINGO PARK
PLEASANT HILL, CA**

IG: @pleasanthillnightmarket

**JOIN US FOR A FUN EVENING
FEATURING 50+ VENDORS,
FOOD, BEVERAGES, LIVE
CULTURAL PERFORMANCES,
AND MUCH MORE ...**



Additional event parking at DVC

21st Annual Art, Wine & Music Festival May 17 & 18th, 2025

**Saturday & Sunday Booths, Vendors & Entertainment from 10 AM to 6 PM
SPECIAL SATURDAY EVENING CONCERT AT 6:30 PM**

PLEASANT HILL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ART, WINE & MUSIC

—20— FESTIVAL —25—





Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick

District 5160 Governor Dan Gerald

District 5160 DV8 Assistant Governor Cathy Durfee

Rotary Club of Pleasant Hill Board of Directors 2024-25

President Diane McRice **President Elect** Jocelyn Reite

Past President: Michael Moore **President Elect Nominee** Michael Kasin

Club Treasurer: Kim Grossberg

PHR Foundation Chair Mark Hinds **TRF Chair:** Jim Bonato

Secretary - Michelle Lacy

SGT at Arms: Lou Rossi & Jan Passanisi

Membership Co-Chairs - Allen Vinson & Mike Maxwell

International Service Chair: Susan Wood

Environmental Service Chair: Bonnie Hazarabedian

Community Service Chair: Bonnie Hazarabedian

Youth Service & Interact: Matt Rinn & Troy Jones

Public Image: Faye Donaghu

Vocational Service Chair: Jeff Clark

Social Chair: Cara Leyva

Action Plan Champion: Mike Maxwell

Newsletter Editor: Steve Lack **Historian:** Jim Nunes



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