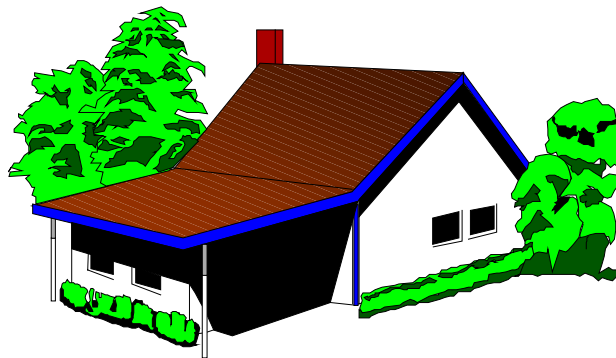


Pleasant Hill

Setting and History

Pleasant Hill is a community of commuters. It has no central district, instead it boasts a canal running smack down its middle. A high priority is given to retaining the country feeling. Pleasant Hill benefits from the presence of the five-thousand acre Briones Regional Park on its western edge and its own sixty-three acre Paso Nogal park, which offers sweeping views of Mt. Diablo and the Valley. The Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park District has been active



for thirty-seven years. Park lands total more than 150 acres; with designated open space of seventy acres, this amounts to a lot of greenery for a city of eight and one-half square miles.

In addition, Pleasant Hill has a unique central feature ~ the Contra Costa Canal Trail, a paved path running south to north through the middle of the city. Each year hundreds of thousands of walkers, joggers, horseback riders, children going to school and people biking to BART use the trail.

It follows the route of an irrigation canal constructed by the Federal Bureau of Reclamation in the early forties. Residents even fish in the canal, hooking catfish, carp and an occasional striped bass.

The trail was pieced together over the last decade with widespread community support. It is maintained by the

East Bay Regional Park District, which got public use of the right of way by agreement with the Contra Costa Water District, administrators of the canal.

“Getting a trail through an urban area is one of the most complicated undertakings a park district can engage in.” observes Ned MacKay, of the park staff. The trail was paved and some landscaping added, particularly where needed to preserve the privacy of adjacent homeowners.

An extensive program of recreational activities involves all elements of the community. One lively aspect is directed to Seniors, who have a three-building center next to Pleasant Hill

Pleasant Hill

Park. In addition to a full-time coordinator for Seniors' activities, Nancy Whaley, more than two hundred volunteers put in 20,000 hours last year. The Pleasant Hill Senior Citizens' Club membership has swelled to nearly 2,000 and something is going on every day of the week. Ms Whaley describes their objective simply. "We try to provide everything Seniors need ~ a nutrition program with a daily hot meal; counseling on subjects from Medicare to Social Security; trips to local spots and around the world; classes; exercise groups that include bowling, bocce ball, chair exercises and tai chi. We provide small-appliance repairs and a current events discussion meeting. And I've formed a walking group that has explored all the paved trails from Martinez to Canyon. Members average about sixty years old; they can join at age fifty, and one member turned 101 in June of 1996. The Center's phone number is 925.798.8788

As to downtown Pleasant Hill, well, there is not much there ~ yet. The community never had a central unifying element such as a railroad station to establish a commercial core, so businesses grew haphazardly along a stretch of Contra Costa Boulevard. The Pleasant Hill area, so named in 1865, developed as transportation routes created access to the Diablo Valley ~ the Southern Pacific Rail-

road line in 1891, the Caldecott Tunnel in 1937, and Interstate 680 in 1964. The area consisted of small farms and large ranches. Growth was slow until 1945, when sudden expansion took place after the war. As the general area became desirable for industry, workers sought housing in rural Pleasant Hill, and subdivisions began to sprout.

Incorporation came late for Pleasant Hill. In 1959, Walnut Creek looked to annex it but was turned down by the voters; In 1960, Concord made a bid for certain commercial districts, and they, too, were voted down. It was not until 1961 that incorporation advocates worked out a plan that the voters accepted for a self-governing city to provide minimum services without any property tax. The population was 19,800. Pleasant Hill residents now number 30,700 and the population has hovered around that figure since 1975.

Eager to maintain its rural quality, the community has passed measures like a tree ordinance to preserve the remaining large sycamore, oak and blue gum trees, and a hillside development policy to prevent unsightly changes. Suburban houses with a larger-than-usual ration of trees, gravel driveways, creeks and green hills are elements that residents intend to preserve, as they decisively declared by

passing an anti-growth initiative in June 1986.

Some city officials are unhappy about the growth restrictions, but development can be seen. Pleasant Hill Plaza Shopping Center, a coherent group of low red brick buildings has been added along Contra Costa Boulevard. The Tow Worlds complex integrates townhouses on the second floor with storefronts on the ground floor. New residential developments include a 101-unit senior citizens apartment complex and more than two hundred townhouses.

Despite lack a burgeoning population, Pleasant Hill leads Contra Costa in its retail sales tax per capita, with several major stores, however scattered, producing the lion's share of sales.

On the northern side of Pleasant Hill, Diablo Valley College occupies one hundred park-like acres of campus. Some twenty thousand students are enrolled in the two-year community college, which often leads Northern California in the number of students transferring to the state college sys-

tem; many students go to U.C. Berkeley.

Upper-division and graduate-level instruction are offered by the Contra Costa Center of California University, Hayward, located in the premises that used to be Pleasant Hill High School. Since it opened in 1981, the center has become the largest off-campus establishment of its type in California. More than 1300 students are enrolled in thirteen different degree, credential and certificate programs.



When the Diablo Valley College area was annexed, problems of unwanted traffic began to plague Pleasant Hill. When shoppers first made tracks through Pleasant Hill to get to the new Sunvalley

Shopping Center, Traffic congestion got even worse. Today, the Pleasant Hill BART station, the largest station on the "C" line, is located in an unincorporated part of the county just southeast of Pleasant Hill, within the city's sphere of influence but not its control. Pleasant Hill is only allowed to "comment" on the parking and traffic problems around the station.

Pleasant Hill in a Nutshell

SCHOOLS:

School scores are generally in the 80th and 90th percentiles, the top twenty percent in the state. It is served by the Mount Diablo Unified School District. It is the home of Diablo Valley College, which perennially leads state community colleges in transfers to four-year universities, and as a result, gets high marks for academics.

CRIME:

The overall crime rate is about average for a suburban community. Pleasant Hill had no homicides in 1994, the last year the FBI has reported. Homicides for the previous six years were zero, zero, zero, one, zero, and two. Pleasant Hill has its own police force.

COMMUTE:

The commute has been aided by recent improvements and expansion of Interstate 680. Pleasant Hill is close to two BART stations, and its back roads allow access to the freeway from a variety of points.

WEATHER:

Pleasant Hill weather is best described as balmy. Pleasant Hill is about five miles, as the Sea Gull flies, from the Carquinez Strait. In winter, when tule fog flows out of the Strait, the inland cities catch some of the fog, but not as much as the river towns. In the summer, breezes from the Strait soften the heat.

APPEARANCE:

Much of Pleasant Hill offers views of Mount Diablo and rolling hills. The homes are comfortable and well maintained, if not generally fancy or showy. Most of the streets have mature trees and well maintained lawns. In short, very nice suburbia.

RECREATION:

Pleasant Hill is bordered on one side by a large recreational park, served by a taxing district concerned only with parks and recreation. The city contains eleven parks with many activities for children and adults.

Contra Costa County's largest library is located in Pleasant Hill.

Diablo Valley College, because its fees are low, attracts many people interested in swimming, exercising, artistic pursuits, as well as job training and retraining.

When Pleasant Hill was a farm community a canal was built through the town for irrigation. Today, rain or shine, people take to the paved canal trail to jog, stroll or ride bikes.

Restaurants, movies, plays, musicals, symphonies, art exhibits, farmers' markets; Pleasant Hill has them all, or they are within a ten minute drive. It also has a popular YMCA and one of

the few bridge centers in the East Bay Area.

Pleasant Hill Today



Population: 33,169
51% female
49% male

Population Age Groups: Under 52,156
5 – 184,336
19 – 295,437
30 – 5413,258
55+6,352

Occupational Profile*: Professional 18%
Support..... 18%
Manufacturing 5%
Sales 14%
Service 9%
Technician 5%
Agricultural..... 1%
Executive/Managerial..... 21%

*Percentage of the employed population

Area Within City Limits: 8+ square miles

Climate: Winter Average Temperature: 50.9°F
Winter Average Rainfall:10.56 inches
Spring Average Temperature: 64.0°F
Spring Average Rainfall:..... 0.73 inches
Summer Average Temperature: 72.7°F
Summer Average Rainfall: 0.62 inches
Fall Average Temperature:..... 65.2°F
Fall Average Rainfall: 6.02 inches

Median Household Income: \$67,800

Commute to San Francisco: 35 miles

Schools: Public – Operated by the Mt. Diablo Unified
School District – 925.682.8000
6 elementary
3 intermediate
1 high school

Educational Attainment: High School21%
Some College.....28%
AA.....10%
Bachelors23%
Graduate Degree10%

Hospitals: Mt. Diablo Hospital, Concord – 925.682.8200
John Muir Hospital, Walnut Creek – 925.939.3000
Kaiser Hospital, Walnut Creek – 925.295.4000

Transportation: County transit buses serve the Pleasant Hill BART
station and shopping areas

Zip Code: 94523

Pleasant Hill Schools

STAR 2000 Scores

High Schools

	Reading	Math	Language	Science	Social Science
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Mt. Diablo Unified District

College Park High School

201 Viking Drive, Pleasant Hill 94523

Grade 9.....	56	73	68	62	62
Grade 10.....	54	69	61	68	59
Grade 11.....	52	70	64	71	73

Intermediate & Elementary Schools

	Reading	Math	Language	Spelling
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Mt. Diablo Unified District

Pleasant Hill Middle

3100 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill 94523

Grade 6.....	71	74	71	65
Grade 7.....	76	71	75	67
Grade 8.....	76	71	74	56

Sequoia Middle

265 Boyd Road, Pleasant Hill 94523

Grade 6.....	75	76	76	74
Grade 7.....	75	72	81	73
Grade 8.....	74	74	78	63

Valley View Middle

181 Viking Drive, Pleasant Hill 94523

Grade 6.....	65	72	68	62
Grade 7.....	65	69	74	62
Grade 8.....	66	68	74	56

	Reading	Math	Language	Spelling
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Fair Oaks Elementary

2400 Lisa Lane, Pleasant Hill 94523

Grade 2.....	47	60	38	45
Grade 3.....	37	52	38	42
Grade 4.....	41	41	48	36
Grade 5.....	44	47	53	47

Gregory Gardens Elementary

200 Harriet Drive, Pleasant Hill 94523

Grade 2.....	61	68	61	59
Grade 3.....	67	69	64	61
Grade 4.....	73	77	74	69
Grade 5.....	58	61	61	47

Pleasant Hill Elementary

2097 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill 94523

Grade 2.....	68	86	77	69
Grade 3.....	71	81	73	67
Grade 4.....	81	82	76	73
Grade 5.....	71	79	73	61

Sequoia Elementary

277 Boyd Road, Pleasant Hill, 94523

Grade 2.....	77	90	86	81
Grade 3.....	83	90	90	78
Grade 4.....	83	85	76	77
Grade 5.....	79	84	80	77

Strandwood Elementary

416 Gladys Drive, Pleasant Hill 94523

Grade 2.....	81	88	83	77
Grade 3.....	72	83	76	59
Grade 4.....	71	74	73	68
Grade 5.....	63	72	63	65

Valhalla Elementary

530 Kiki Drive, Pleasant Hill 94523

Grade 2.....	73	86	82	70
Grade 3.....	74	82	74	63
Grade 4.....	78	74	74	68
Grade 5.....	63	62	58	50

Police Services



The Pleasant Hill Police Department began operation in 1970 in a former school house on Oak Park Boulevard. This temporary facility served as the base of police operations until 1981 when the Department moved into its new headquarters on Civic Drive.

The new, centrally located, modern police facility became operational February of 1981. Built for 2.7 million dollars, this 20,000 square foot facility has the potential of serving the department, and community, well into the 21st century.

Community relations and public safety have been high priorities among the goals of the Police Department over the past 25 plus years. Pleasant Hill's beat officers have been assisted in these endeavors by the Youth Services, Crime Prevention, DARE and Traffic Safety programs. The Department has also benefited from volunteers in the Police Reserves, Explorers and Citizen Volunteer programs.

The Pleasant Hill Police Department is...

“Serious About Service ~

- Youth Services
- Crime Prevention
- DARE Program
- Disaster Preparedness
- Neighborhood Alert
- Police Reserve Program
- Traffic Safety
- Police Explorer Program
- Community Policing
- Citizen Volunteer Program
- School Liaison Program

~ and Dedicated to Serve!”

**Pleasant Hill
Police Department
330 Civic Drive
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523**

**Business phone –
925.671.4600**

Emergency - 911

Community Phone Numbers

Schools:

Mt. Diablo Unified School District 925.682.8000
 Contra Costa Office of Education 925.944.3388

Services:

PG&E (Pacific Gas & Electric)..... 1.800.743.5000
 EBMUD (East Bay Municipal Utility Dist. – water) 820.6600
 Contra Costa Water District 688.8000
 Pacific Bell (Telephone)..... 1.800.310.2355
 AT&T Cable TV 1.800.870.5140
 Garbage (BFI-Pleasant Hill Bayshore Disposal)..... 685.4711
 U.S. Post Office..... 1.800.275.8777

Assistance:

Chamber of Commerce 687.0700
 County Tax Collector’s Office 646.4128
 Fire Department Business 930.5500
 Library 646.6434
 Parks & Recreation..... 682.0896
 Police Department Business..... 671.4600

Transportation:

Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART)..... 676.2278
 County Connection (Buses)..... 676.7500
 Department of Motor Vehicles..... 935.4464

Private Schools

Christ the King Catholic School
195 Brandon Road
685.1109

Creative Play Center
2323 Pleasant Hill Road
932.3173

Discoveryland
800 Grayson Road
935.3520

Fountainhead Montessori School
490 Golf Club Road
685.2949

La Cheim School
(Special Edition)
1700 Oak Park Blvd.
930.7994

Mary Jane's Pre-school
& Kindergarten
2902 Vessing Road
935.3084

Pioneer Montessori School
2702 Pleasant Hill Road
947.2340

Play and Learn School
1898 Pleasant Hill Road
943.7007

Pleasant Hill Junior Academy
796 Grayson Road
934.9261

St. Mark's Christian Preschool
3051 Putnam Blvd.
932.0700

Sunrise Children's Center
1715 Oak Park Blvd.
946.0111

YMCA Preschool
350 Civic Drive
686.1787

Parks & Recreation

Key

Basketball Courts BBC
 Children’s Play Areas..... CPA
 Internal Hiking Trails..... HT
 Public Restrooms PR
 Softball Fields SF
 Tennis Courts TC

Boccie CourtsBC
 Community ClassesCC
 Picnic/Barbecue Area.....PA
 Scenic ViewsSV
 Swimming Pools..... SP
 Volleyball Courts VC

Park/Facility:

Pleasant Hill ParkSF... PA..... ..VC... BBC... CPA... PR..... ..SP..... ..
 Rodgers-Smith ParkSF... PA...BC... VC... BBC... CPA... PR..... ..
 Paso Nogal ParkPA..... .. BBC..... .. PR...HT..... ..
 Pleasant Oaks ParkSF... PA..... .. CPA... PR..... ..
 Brookwood Park..... ..PA..... .. BBC... CPA..... ..
 Dinosaur Hill Park..... .. HT ... SV..... ..
 Frank Salfingere Park..... .. CPA..... .. SV..... ..
 Pinewood Park..... .. CPA..... ..
 Chilpancingo Park..... ..
 Shadowwood Park..... ..PA..... .. CPA..... ..
 Shannon Hills Park..... .. SV..... ..
 Ridgeview Open SpaceHT... SV..... ..
 Las Juntas Open Space..... ..HT... SV..... ..
 P.H. Community Center CPA... PR..... ..
 Senior Center..... ..PA..... .. CC
 Winslow Center..... .. CPA... PR..... ..SV..... .. CC

Houses of Worship

Assembly of God

Oak Park Assembly
2073 Oak Park Blvd..... 934.3056

Baptist, Southern

New Life Christian Fellowship
2590 Pleasant Hill Road..... 685.5433

Catholic

Christ the King
199 Brandon Road..... 682.2486

Christian

First Christian Church
2115 Pleasant Hill Road..... 935.3445

Christian Science

First Church of Christ Scientist
405 Boyd Road..... 932.1415

Church of Christ

Church of Christ
777 Grayson Road..... 685.6865

Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints

Pleasant Hill Chapel – 1st Ward
555 Boyd Road..... 930.7474

Congregational

Hillcrest Congregational
404 Gregory Lane..... 689.8260

Covenant

Hope Center Covenant Church
2275 Morello Avenue..... 685.4673

Episcopal

Church of the Resurrection
399 Gregory Lane..... 685.2288

Free Methodist

Oasis Christian Fellowship
2551 Pleasant Hill Road..... 934.1244

Jehovah's Witness

Pleasant Oaks Congregation
799 Grayson Road..... 933.7565

Lutheran

Faith Lutheran Church
50 Woodsworth Lane 685.7353
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
3051 Putnam Blvd..... 934.6114

Non-Denominational

Grace Bible Church
40 Cleveland Road 676.1584

Presbyterian

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
1601 Mary Drive 685.4720

Seventh Day Adventist

800 Grayson Road..... 934.5803

Synagogues

Congregation B'nai Tikvah
25 Hillcroft Way, Walnut Creek . 933.5397

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