

Local Businesses Earn Top Trophies in Great Race for Clean Air Challenge

Tri-Valley business organizations won awards and praise for their efforts to promote greenhouse gas-reducing commute alternatives to their employees. Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty recognized the winners of the Great Race for Clean Air Challenge, all from Pleasanton, at the weekly Board of Supervisors meeting.

Employers from throughout the Tri-Valley region were invited to participate in the competition to encourage employees to get to work by using alternatives to solo-driving. "Tri-Valley employers stepped up their efforts to voluntarily promote the benefits of commute alternatives to employees. As a result, we all benefitted as employees proactively sought more environmentally friendly, and in some cases, healthier options to get to work, helping to reduce traffic congestion, and most importantly, improving air quality in the Tri-Valley for all of us," said Haggerty.

With more than 100 employees trying alternative commute methods, Kaiser Permanente won its trophy for the Highest Employee Participation in the large organization category. The company was also recognized for reducing its carbon dioxide or CO2 emissions by 62,510 pounds during the competition. Kaiser moved its computer IT operations to the Hacienda Business Park late 2005.

The City of Pleasanton won the trophy for the mid-size cat-



Supervisor Scott Haggerty presented the trophy to James Paxon, General Manager Hacienda Owners Association.

egory, with more of its employees biking and walking to work. Winning in the small organization category, Hacienda Owners Association staff won two trophies – one for highest (100%) participation with all 4 of its employees using alternative commutes during the competition and for the highest reduction of CO2 emissions per employee of

721 pounds.

Employees used carpools, vanpools, transit, biking and walking to travel to and from work during the months of August and September. An on-line diary tool, provided by 511.org, was used by participants to track their progress and to tally final results. A total reduction of 135,261 pounds of CO2 emissions

was achieved by all 13 participating businesses during the summer months when the Tri-Valley experiences some of its worst air quality. Emissions from motor vehicles produce about half of all the CO2 emissions, the largest single source of this air pollutant, in the nine-county Bay Area region.

The competition is organized by the Tri-Valley Air Quality Resource Team and sponsored by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). The competition, in its second year, was promoted through local Chambers of Commerce in Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and San Ramon. As the economy recovers, the Team is planning to continue the competition this year, providing an opportunity for employers to initiate programs to promote commute alternatives to solo-driving to new and returning employees.

Scott Haggerty represents the First District communities of Dublin, Fremont, Livermore, Pleasanton and east unincorporated areas on the five-member Alameda County Board of Supervisors. Haggerty is former chair and serves as a director on the BAAQMD.

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BANKHEAD THEATER

Judy, Judy, Judy
A Cabaret Tribute to Judy Garland
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Vagabond Opera
Bohemian Cabaret Ensemble
 Sat, Feb 27 • 8:00 pm



Described by the Washington Post as "A band of ceaseless charisma, boundless energy, impeccable musicianship and more than a little touch of both the naughty and exotic." The group delivers passionate offerings of Bohemian cabaret for young and old, including Paris hot jazz, gut bucket swing, tangos, Ukrainian folk-punk ballads, klezmer and vigorous originals. **Tickets: \$26 - \$46, Students \$12**

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