



PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 19, 2015

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FREE FALL FESTIVAL AT ALVISO ADOBE COMMUNITY PARK

Annual Festival for Families the Combines Education, Culture and Fun

Pleasanton, Calif. — The City of Pleasanton will host its third annual free Fall Festival at Alviso Adobe Community Park, located at 3465 Old Foothill Road, on Saturday, September 24 from 11 - 3 p.m. This event is made possible with assistance from 4-H, California Fandango Project and the Meadowlark Dairy.

The day's schedule includes a presentation by Meadowlark Dairy, a visit with Fiona— the park's life sized, fiberglass milking cow, a live animal display by the local 4-H, authentic Californios music and dance by The California Fandango Project, and crafts for children.

The event will also feature hands-on activities and presentations from the Adobe's three distinct time periods: Ohlone, Californio, and the Meadowlark Dairy. Of special interest are demonstrations such as making apple cider, tortilla making, soap carving, adobe brick making, and ice cream churning. Enjoy the day with us as a taco vendor will be on-site selling tacos.

Of the more than 700 adobe structures originally constructed in the San Francisco Bay Area during the Spanish and Mexican periods, just a few exist today, including Pleasanton's Alviso Adobe. It serves as the centerpiece of a seven-acre park that tells the story of how one piece of California land has been inhabited and used in different ways since the time of the pyramids in Egypt. From its earliest recorded human habitation as a settlement of the native Ohlone Indians, to the days of the Spanish ranchos managing herds of cattle on the original 12,000-acre Rancho Santa Rita, to the turn of the century when it was home to California's first certified dairy, original portions of each historical period have been left intact.

A \$4.5 million restoration transformed the site into an interpretive park, where school children and visitors learn about the history of the Amador Valley and get a rare glimpse of times past. A recreation of the historic Meadowlark Dairy Milking Barn and Bunk House/Interpretive and Activity Space serve as classrooms and indoor interpretive displays. Since its opening in October 2008, more than 200 third and fourth grade classes have visited the park to learn about local history. Additionally, the Environmental Education staff based at the park provided programming for more than 1,800 students last year with offsite visits to Pleasanton preschools and elementary schools to educate 4 to 7 year olds about regional natural history.

The site also features a dramatic overlook of the valley, with images of Pleasanton at different time periods. A small amphitheater seats 20-30 people for lectures and storytelling. Nearby are demonstration areas that involve visitors in the activities of the past, such as making adobe bricks, churning butter, and weaving baskets. The park grounds have been carefully landscaped with native plants, ancient Heritage oak trees, and a seasonal creek.

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