



## PRESS RELEASE



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Photo Caption:

*Pleasanton's Alviso Adobe is one of a handful of historic adobe buildings still standing in the San Francisco Bay Area. It serves as the centerpiece of Alviso Adobe Community Park.*

### **City of Pleasanton Hosts 2nd Free Fall Festival at Alviso Adobe** *Seasonal Event for Families Combines Education, Culture and Fun*

*Pleasanton, CA*—The City of Pleasanton will host its second annual **free Fall Festival** at **Alviso Adobe Community Park** on **Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>** from **11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** The public is invited to this **free** event, **located at 3465 Old Foothill Road**. The event is also made possible with assistance from 4-H, East Bay Regional Park District 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 time periods: Ohlone, Californio, and the Meadowlark Dairy. Of special interest are demonstrations such as making apple cider, spear throwing, soap carving, flint-knapping, and ice cream churning. Other activities include cow and horse roping, and a reading of the book *Rinya*, a story of a young Ohlone boy in the mid-1700s, by author John Poole. Guests will also be treated to complimentary 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 off-site visits to Pleasanton pre-schools 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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### **About Pleasanton**

*The City of Pleasanton is a vibrant Northern California community of 71,000 residents situated at the crossroads of Interstates 580 and 680, in close proximity to the San Francisco and San Jose metropolitan areas. The city's location has historical significance as a major trading route of early Native Americans and later along the route of the First Transcontinental Railroad. Pleasanton is a major suburb that has been noted as one of the wealthiest middle-sized cities in the nation. Among Pleasanton's many attractions are an excellent school system, a highly educated workforce, 1,200 acres of parkland and recreational open space, a nationally recognized business park, a regional retail shopping mall, and a historic downtown district. For more information, please visit [www.cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov).*

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