

Rodrigue Molyneux Winery Estate and Vineyard

Ranch boasts one of valley's largest native gardens

Livermore Valley is home to more than 50 wineries, each with its own style, personality and unique history. Twice a month, we profile a different winery and the people behind it.

This week: Rodrigue Molyneux Winery Estate and Vineyard. The Rodrigues purchased the winery property in 1988 and have developed the site into a destination winery where visitors can escape stress and enjoy natural beauty while tasting award-winning wines.

BETWEEN THE VINES
WINERY SPOTLIGHT

Where visitors can escape stress and enjoy natural beauty while tasting award-winning wines.

Who: Owned by Garry and Nancy Rodrigue.

Where: 3053 Marina Ave., Livermore; 925-443-1998, www.rmwinery.com

Signature Varietal: Cabernet sauvignon, Italian blends, nebbiolo, barbera and petit verdot. The Rodrigues grow cabernet sauvignon, petit verdot and barbera in their estate vineyard, and nebbiolo is grown on a neighboring estate. Italian grape varieties do well in Livermore Valley's climate, which is similar to Italy's Mediterranean coast.

The tasting room: While sipping wine, visitors may stroll the extensive drought-resistant gardens,



The Il Gatto is a Rodrigue Molyneux Winery red table wine.

listen to the fountain, watch the horses and enjoy the warm, Mediterranean weather of the Livermore Valley.

Hours: Open Saturday and Sunday 12:30 to 5 p.m. The \$10 tasting fee covers a pour of each wine on the tasting menu — about seven wines.

About the label: Arden Waters designed the Rodrigue Molyneux series of Italian wine labels to represent how the owners want guests to feel when visiting the winery: invited, relaxed and serene. The series won first prize in the San Francisco Wine Competition for labels.

Claim to fame: The winery's 2011 il Fiore received 87 points from Wine Enthusiast in March 2015. Their 2011 Sangiovese won

second place in the Tri-Valley Conservancy 2014 competition.

Reason to toast: Rodrigue Molyneux is home to one of the largest California native gardens in Livermore Valley.

Summing it up: "Our philosophy is to constantly improve the quality of our wine by learning the techniques, chemistry and art of winemaking," says Garry Rodrigue. "We study, attend classes and meet with colleagues. Most important is the art of making really good wine and keeping it affordable."

WINE COUNTRY EVENTS

■ **Westside Wine Trail** — 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday at Las Positas Vineyards, 1828 Wetmore Road; laspositasvineyards.com. Cost: \$45. Enhance



DAN ROSENSTRAUCH/STAFF PHOTOS

Owners Garry Rodrigue, left, and wife Nancy with dog Smokey, walk through the grounds of the Rodrigue Molyneux Winery in Livermore.

the Harvest Wine Celebration and visit four Westside wineries on the Livermore Wine Trolley. Featuring live outdoor music by the Catfish Boys.

■ **Release Party at Mitchell Katz Winery** — 12 to 5 p.m. Sept 12 at Mitchell Katz Winery, 2481 Buena Vista Ave.; www.mitchellkatzwinery.com. Cost: \$10 tasting fee. A \$10 admission per person includes keepsake logo glass and standard wine tasting menu. Matt Phipps will perform. Mario's French Dips available for purchase. Event will feature the Gold Medal Winner at the California State Fair: Crackerbox Sangiovese.

Between the Vines is a biweekly column on winemaking in the Livermore Valley. This column was contributed by the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association. For help planning a wine country journey, visit www.LVwine.org.

Hotel

Continued from Page 1

"There have been several iterations, including an approval that was never exercised (because of the recession)," said Town Manager Joe Calabrigo. "The project has been scaled down, and rather than looking at offices above the retail, second-floor living units are part of it."

Giacomelli said town planners have been exacting but consistent in their requirements for the project over the years. The three-story buildings and underground parking that had been part of earlier plans are gone.

Among the businesses to open soon at the Danville Hotel are Papyrus (cards, gifts, etc.), Heavenly Couture (clothing), Sole Desire Shoes (women's shoes and accessories), Look + See Luxury Optical (eyewear) and BoBen Designs (jewelry), plus eateries including Danville Brewing Company, Pizza Antica and the Basque Boulangerie Café, which will be housed in the old hotel building.

The Danville Brewing Company, which will front on Railroad Avenue, will feature a half-dozen of its own house beers, fermented and crafted on-site, as well as a handful of "guest beers" and food like gourmet burgers, hand-cut fries and salads with locally grown produce.

The existing Danville Hotel building dates from the early 1890s. The last of the faux "Old West" buildings added in the 1950s to emphasize the town's roots have been knocked down to make way for this new project.

The McCauley House, designated in 2002 as a "local heritage resource," at the corner of Hartz and Short avenues at the southwest edge of the commercial project, also is being restored as part of the project.

Danville's Heritage Design Review Committee and its Design Review Board both signed off on details concerning the new and the preserved buildings included in the Danville Hotel project.

And as for the new second-story condos, it's a slow-building trend in downtown Danville, with smaller second-story developments on East Prospect Avenue and Railroad and Linda Mesa avenues.

"We've begun to incorporate the residential units over ground-floor (uses) in the downtown, Calabrigo said.

Panel

Continued from Page 1

"It's a huge commitment, and it makes a huge impact," she said. "Government can be very methodical and works slowly when you're trying to change public policy. You need people who can stick with it, be pragmatic, work through issues and think creatively together. It's really exciting when you see an end product that has a great impact on the community. (Commissioners) are influencers ... they have to be very informed and not look at their own interests or areas of interest but (at) the big picture and what's best for the community."

Human Services Commissioner Susan Hayes is a longtime Pleasanton resident who's served on the nine-member commission for the past two years.

"I never thought about this, it wasn't a goal; I've just always been involved in volunteer work," she said. "When I was asked to apply, it just made sense. You wonder what you're going to do with all (your) experience ... and I thought this would be a good way to give back to a multitude of organizations, to reach a lot in one way."

Pleasanton resident Steve Baker sits on the 22-member Economic Vitality Committee, which is composed of a diverse group of members, including representatives of local business "stakeholders," such as the Alameda County Fairgrounds, Hacienda Business Park, Stoneridge Mall and the Pleasanton Downtown Association, along with citizen representatives of local industries, including medical technology, real estate and financial services. A representative of a local nonprofit group, a City Council member, and a citizen-at-large also sit on the committee. Baker is the local high-tech representative.

"I began to look at how I could use my 30 years of experience working with various high-tech companies, primarily in financial roles, to help the city and potentially make it a more attractive place for startup companies," he said. "That's something of interest to me."

In his four months on the committee so far, he's been involved in discussions on topics including fire inspection fees and water use.

"What I like is that this brings nongovernment perspectives and experiences into the governmental process, and is a way for the business community to have input, and help shape the direction of what the

FYI

The City of Pleasanton is seeking citizens to fill openings on its Civic Arts, Housing, Human Services, Library and Youth commissions. Applicants must reside in Pleasanton. Openings also are available on the Economic Vitality Committee, which requires applicants to be employed by a company either located in Pleasanton or that serves the Pleasanton community.

The deadline for application is Sept. 11. For more information on these positions, as well as details on all Tri-Valley citizen commissions, log on to the websites listed below:

Pleasanton: <http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/boards.asp>

Dublin: <http://www.ci.dublin.ca.us/index.aspx?nid=74>

San Ramon: <http://www.ci.san-ramon.ca.us/bcc/board.htm>

Livermore: <http://www.cityoflivermore.net/citygov/clerk/comms/apply.asp>

governing members of a community are doing," he explained. "It helps make for much smarter, much more predefined growth within the city and community, because you have a lot more perspective involved ... It's not just a few elected officials who make these decisions."

The committee routinely discusses a wide range of issues and provides feedback to the City Council.

"We talk about quite a bit," said Pamela Ott, Pleasanton's Director of Economic Development, who oversees the committee. "We might talk about transportation, the importance of workers getting to and from their places of business ... or the quality-of-life amenities near employment centers."

Diversity of experience and perspective is an overarching goal for all commissions, said Pleasanton's Community Services Manager Michele Crose, who works with the city's Civic Arts Commission.

"People who are interested are all over the spectrum," she said. "They are either in the arts themselves in some way or another or sometimes are people whose kids are in performing or visual arts. Sometimes they're people

who like music but have never played and are passionate about the community."

Unique among these groups is the 14-member Youth Commission, whose members range in age from sixth through 12th grade, as well as one adult member. The commission is charged with identifying issues of concern to youth and members work to plan a range of teen events, including Youth in Government Day and teen job fairs in conjunction with other area cities. Members also oversee the Ptownlife.org website.

"I think it really gives the youth a voice," said Samu Tiunamu, Pleasanton's recreation supervisor and liaison to the Youth Commission. "Some communities don't have a youth commission in place. Youth commissions are able to be part of the city, part of the process. Eventually these youth become adults."

The value of citizen commissions lies in the willingness of residents to contribute to decisions being made at the city level, said Crose, the community services manager.

"I believe it's important to have the community as actively involved as possible in decisions being made for them by their city and commissioners," she said. "I wouldn't want to single-handedly pick all the art in Pleasanton myself. I'm absolutely grateful there is a commission whose members are passionate and caring and want to be the voice for the community and bring forward great things on their behalf."

DeSaulnier

Continued from Page 1

The Aug. 27 meeting with the San Ramon Valley Democrats came in addition to a series of five scheduled public town hall meetings. The next one is set for this week in the Clayton Library's Hoyer Hall.

DeSaulnier said last Thursday that he hasn't made up his mind on the controversial Iran nuclear deal but is leaning toward supporting it. He said he'll make a decision soon. While he has reservations about some aspects of the proposed deal — the \$150 billion payment to Iran in particular troubles him — DeSaulnier said it's a very complex issue that doesn't lend itself to easy answers.

"At some point, you've got to give something else a try (short of invading the country)," he said.

He also invoked his credentials as a liberal Democrat as another factor in moving him to a likely "yes" vote.

"Your level of evidence has got to be real high" for the Republicans to convince him not to vote for the deal, he told the audience.

One reason the deal is better than no deal, DeSaulnier said, is that young Iranians might see, and appreciate, the United States taking initiative on the issue. Other matters touched on during the San Ramon talk included:

■ **Jerry Brown** — DeSaulnier credited the governor with leading the state's economic turnaround and bringing needed education

reforms but doesn't agree with his approach to high-speed rail and doesn't understand Brown's support of the "Twin Tunnels" plan to move Sacramento River water under and around the Delta. The \$7 billion for the bonds to fund that project, he said, would be much better spent on other water-related issues.

■ **Immigration** — He favors providing a path to citizenship for law-abiding undocumented residents and blasted Republican attempts to deport those residents as counterproductive and ultimately impossible.

■ **Lobbyists** — They're in Washington, D.C., as they were in Sacramento. "Money has always been a problem in politics," he said. "It's gotten so perverse, so quid-pro-quo, it's become discouraging."

■ **The Bay Bridge** — He's remained a staunch critic of Caltrans over the bridge's construction problems. "I'm still trying to get names from Caltrans of Bay Bridge contractors and subcontractors to learn more about how certain things got done."

After the group discussion, DeSaulnier was asked whether succeeding George Miller — an institution after representing the district for 40 years — has been a benefit or a liability after eight months in office, especially given that Miller heartily endorsed him.

"A little of both," DeSaulnier said. "I've gotten respect because of it, but also some people who loved (Miller) aren't necessarily loving me. The two of us are very different people."

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE CITY OF SAN RAMON PLANNING COMMISSION WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2015, TO CONSIDER:

Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment (TA 14-410-001) filed on December 16, 2014, to amend Section D4-40(E) of the Zoning Ordinance related to Unattended Fueling Stations. The proposed revisions will allow for the consideration of unattended fueling stations with the approval of a Land Use Permit and clarify the exception for accessory unattended Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations.

Applicant: The Linde Group
575 Mountain Ave
Murray Hill, NJ 07974

Location: Citywide. The Zoning Ordinance applies to all property within the City of San Ramon.

CEQA: The proposed Project is exempt under Section 15061(b)(3) of the Guidelines for California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended. The Zone Text Amendment will not result in any physical changes that will have a possibility of a significant impact on the environment. Any future projects proposed under these Zoning Ordinance standards will require a separate CEQA determination.

Documents showing the proposed changes are available at the San Ramon Permit Center located at 2401 Crow Canyon Road as well as on the City's web page at www.sanramon.ca.gov

If you challenge this application in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission at, or prior to, the public hearing.

SAID HEARING will be held by the City of San Ramon Planning Commission in the Council Chamber located at 2222 Camino Ramon, San Ramon commencing at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 15, 2015.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact Senior Planner Lauren Barr at (925) 973-2567.

Posting Period: September 3, 2015 to September 15, 2015

Public Hearing Date: September 15, 2015

Renée L. Beck
Renée Beck, City Clerk
Dated: September 3, 2015

I spy something green.

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Ad Council United Way