

A Look Back at the First Six Months of 2013

Posted: Friday, December 27, 2013 12:00 am

During the first six months of 2013, Pleasanton elected a new city councilmember to fill the seat vacated when Jerry Thorne was elected mayor. Groups stepped up to try to stop covering land in the Tesla area to off-road use. Livermore residents objected to future developments they said would remove open space, replace small businesses, and create traffic problems and school overcrowding.

JANUARY 2013

Pleasanton Planning Commissioner Kathy Narum announced that she would seek election in May to the Pleasanton City Council. The council seat opened when Jerry Thorne was elected mayor. Pleasanton ordinance requires an election to fill the seat. Narum served as treasurer for Thorne's mayoral campaign.

Nate Miley was sworn in as the Alameda County District 4 Supervisor. District 4 includes Pleasanton. It was Miley's fourth four year term.

Scott Haggerty was sworn in to serve his fifth four-year term on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley administered the oath of office in Dublin. Haggerty was unopposed in his reelection to a fifth term in June 2012, which became effective on January 1. Haggerty represents District 1 that includes the communities of Fremont, Livermore, Dublin and unincorporated areas of eastern Alameda County.

Alameda County Supervisors delayed a decision over a proposal to alter Measure D to double the permitted roof area over an outdoor horse facility. The delay was to allow time for county counsel to meet with a Sierra Club attorney over the issue. The supervisors initiated a process early in 2011 to double the Floor to Area Ratio (FAR) for outdoor horse arenas from .01 percent to .02 percent. Staff called the proposed change a technical one. Dick Schneider, co-author of Measure D, disagreed stating that the change is a substantive one, and therefore is required to go to the ballot for voter approval. He argued that if the county acted on its philosophy concerning a so-called technical change, other people would claim other changes as technical changes.

At the end of the first third of the Bankhead Theater's LVPAC Presents new 2012-13 season, the series of national and international performances was off to an exceptionally strong start. Of the 15 shows presented, more than half were sell-outs. Overall, the season, which began on September 1st recorded attendance at 84% of capacity through December 31, the highest level since the theater opened in 2007. Audiences have come from across the Bay Area and beyond.

Tenants of two office parks housing small businesses in the South Livermore area were notified of plans to change the zoning to allow for residential development on the Sunset Office Plaza and Livermore Financial Center. The Sunset Office Plaza, comprised of ten buildings on 14 acres, totaling 78,750 square feet, is sited at the corner of Holmes St. and Concannon Blvd. The 2.2-acre Livermore Financial Center is located on Catalina Court. Tenants responding by noting that the plan would seem to eliminate virtually all office space for the small businesses that are currently in residence on the south end of Livermore.

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) approved an allocation of \$8.6 million in AB 1171 funds BART can use towards the completion of environmental documentation for an extension to Livermore. The proposed project involves a 4.8 mile extension of the BART line from the existing Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station within the I-580 Corridor Freeway alignment to a station in the vicinity of the I-580/Isabel Avenue Interchange.

Sandia's Chief Technology Officer Steve Rottler was named vice president of Sandia's California laboratory effective Feb. 1. He replaced Rick Stulen, who retired after 36 years at Sandia National Laboratories. In his new role, Rottler will lead Sandia's Energy, Climate, and Infrastructure Security Strategic Management Unit.

Dublin was one of only three cities in Alameda County to receive an "A" on an American Lung Association (ALA) report card grading cities' efforts to control tobacco use. Livermore and Pleasanton each received a "D." The letter grades were taken from point scores that weighted the cities' overall performances in three categories: regulation of smoke-free outdoor air, requirements for landlords to create and permanently maintain non-smoking housing units, and ordinances that would reduce the sales of tobacco products.

A report prepared for Congress in December stated that the National Ignition Campaign (NIC) did not meet its principal program goal to achieve ignition at the National Ignition Facility (NIF) by the close of FY 2012. NIF is located at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. The report, written by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), noted, "Present codes had predicted that NIF would attain ignition at the present scale. Since ignition was not achieved, this indicates significant gaps between experimental results, present models, and scientific understanding." Plans were announced to move forward with a three year nationally-based program using NIF for a broad-based experimental program addressing a more diverse range of scientific issues and opportunities. After three years of work to better understand the physics of ignition, the NIF program would then be assessed at the end of fiscal year 2015. Construction of NIF at the Lab was completed in March 2009. After a period of commissioning, initial experimentation, and diagnostics development, the first layered cryogenic target implosions were executed in September 2010. Over the next two years, the Lab has issued information that the NIF laser performed reliably and with great precision. Power and energy have exceeded initial design specifications.

Livermore's Chief of Police Steve Sweeney announced his retirement. His last day of service was March 29, 2013. Sweeney stated, "I didn't want to stay too long. It's a stressful job, a challenging job. I didn't want to reach a point in my career where I started slowing down. I wanted to make sure that as long as I'm the chief I'm going to give 100 percent all of the time." Sweeney took the helm in October 2007 just before the economic storm hit, adding to his regular responsibilities the challenges of departmental reorganization, budget cuts and layoffs.

Buenas Vidas Youth Ranch (BVYR), a non-profit that served at-risk boys in all of Alameda County in a rural atmosphere that helped them in their recovery, announced it was going out of business. The organization did not have enough money to remain in operation. BVYR was founded in 1974 by Butch and Ruth Shattuck and Sally Bystroff, all Livermore residents. The nonprofit served more than 3000 youths during its existence.

Livermore was recognized as the fifth Hottest Neighborhood in America for 2013. Business Insider borrowed data from Seattle real estate listing site Redfin.com to come up with the rating. According to Redfin, the hottest neighborhoods all saw shrinking selection, increasing sales, and increasing prices—often at rates far above the metro areas that contain them. Livermore saw a 71% reduction in the number of listings, a 13% increase in sales and a 20% increase in price.

Community leaders and members from the Tri-Valley gathered to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK). Legacy Awards were presented to three individuals whose lives of service reflect the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award winners were Lynette Butsada, Mark Duncanson and Joan Seppala.

FEBRUARY 2013

The Tri-Valley Learning Corporation (TVLC), which operates two charter schools in Livermore, decided not to appeal to the state for a second chance to win approval of the right to establish a K-8 Portola Academy in Livermore. The Livermore and Alameda County school boards had voted against the application unanimously, in both the first and second attempts for approval. The boards both said that there did not appear to be any community demand for the new school. In explaining their decision, TVLC representatives stated that the appeal process was draining money and energy away from staff.

Potential zoning changes drew opposition in Livermore from would-be neighbors. The proposals were made by the Sunset Development Company and Acacia Capital Corp. A plan being considered by Sunset Development Company would replace offices with housing on two sites. Acacia Capital Corp. proposed adding four new three-story buildings to the 240-unit Ironwood apartment complex at Charlotte Way and East Avenue. Sunset Development Company held a neighborhood meeting to discuss the proposed conversion of two properties. Concerns raised included the impact on enrollment at Sunset Elementary and traffic on Concannon Boulevard. Residents living near the Ironwood Apartments have been vocal in their opposition. One issue related to the loss of open space. The project, as proposed would have eliminated an unofficial "park" on the land that has been used by area residents. Other issues were increased traffic and crime in the neighborhood and potential overcrowding of Arroyo Seco Elementary School. Residents argued that the increased traffic would create a safety issue for children who walk to and from the school.

Local officials celebrated the opening of a Livermore to Pleasanton 2 mile long arroyo trail alongside the West Jack London Boulevard extension that ties Isabel Avenue to El Charro Road. Zone 7 owns the section of Arroyo Las Positas where the trail is located. The area is used for flood protection purposes.

The Pleasanton School Board approved a plan for short-term and long-term building needs. It would meet growth projections, renew older campuses, and create new interior spaces to accommodate more flexible approaches to classroom education. The total cost estimated in today's dollars was \$506 million. The district staff and the board will use the plan as a guide. The plan is divided into four levels. The first level deals with maintenance, safety and the integrity of buildings. The second level considers low-cost, high-impact projects. Level 3 would build medium-cost, short-range projects. The highest cost projects are at Level 4, a period 6 to 10 years out.

Five potential candidates took out papers to run for the vacant Pleasanton City Council seat. Those taking out papers were Planning Commissioner Kathy Narum, Olivia Sanwong, an at-large member of the Economic Vitality Committee; David Miller, Tea Party member; Mark Hamilton, and Warren Dumanski. Narum, Miller, Sanwong and Hamilton filed their papers. Dumanski let the city clerk know that he did not plan to return his papers. The seat became vacant when Jerry Thorne was elected mayor last November. The city council set the by-mail only voting for May 7.

The Pleasanton City Council voted to amend the city's general plan to comply with the updated Livermore Municipal Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUC). Under the ALUC, no new housing or intensification of existing housing would be permitted within the airport protection area. Livermore requested an exemption for the area around the proposed Isabel BART station.

Friends of the Vineyards (FOV) held its annual meeting to highlight both accomplishments of the past year and goals for the coming year, honor retiring board member Lynn Seppala, and enjoy local wines while listening to winemaker Mark Clarin speak about the region's terroir. FOV, in association with the Tri-Valley Conservancy and other environmental groups, is working towards preserving the Doolan Canyon and Tesla Park open spaces.

The Livermore Police Department swore in seven new police officers. The Livermore Police Department had re-established the Drug and Gang Task Force, a Special Operations Unit. The addition of the seven officers helps to replace previous vacant positions, as well as those that were needed to staff the special unit.

Pleasanton announced plans to celebrate the 20th year anniversary of its Senior Center with a gala weekend filled with special activities surrounding the theme Celebrating the Past and Embracing the Future. Since opening in March of 1993, the Center has served as a resource for the community, offering a wide array of valued classes, programs and services for mature adults. It also houses the Pleasanton Paratransit and RADD programs (Recreational Activities for the Developmentally Disabled) and the offices of the independent nonprofit Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley.

It was announced that Livermore would host stage 7 of the 2013 Amgen Tour of California. The start was set at Carnegie Park in downtown Livermore. The stage 7 would finish at the summit parking lot on Mount Diablo.

The Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association installed its 2013-2015 Board of Directors. Members include: Jennifer Fazio, Steven Kent & La Rochelle Wineries (President); Lanny Replogle, Fenestra Winery (Vice President); Amy Hoopes, Went Family Estates (Secretary); Jim Perry, Eagle Ridge Vineyard (Treasurer); Kathy Liske el Sol Winery (AMAC Chair); Gina Cardera, Garre Vineyard & Winery (Past President); Catherine Cheda, Hawthorne Suites; Mark Clarin, Picazo Vineyards; John Concannon, Concannon Vineyard; Harry Galles, Galles Vineyard; William Martin, Safeway; Heather McGrail, McGrail Vineyards & Winery; and Rhonda Wood, Wood Family Vineyards.

Abe Gupta was chosen as the new Dublin City Councilmember, replacing Eric Swalwell, who resigned his seat to begin service in Congress on Jan. 3. Gupta took over the seat immediately after his appointment. The vote for Gupta was 3-1, with Councilmember Kevin Hart voting "no." Hart stated, "I was very impressed with Abe's presentation and application. I want to see someone who brings something else to the council." The council heard from 10 applicants, then voted in a first round, in which members each voted for two choices. Gupta was on the ballots of all four councilmembers.

The Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center (LVPAC) filed suit against the California Department of Finance in Sacramento Superior Court. The suit sought to compel the state to recognize pre-existing legal agreements between the non-profit arts organization, the City of Livermore, and the Livermore Redevelopment Agency; and to authorize the payment of approximately \$122 million in future tax increment funds to help finance LVPAC's Regional Theater project. The Department of Finance, charged with winding down redevelopment agencies across the state, had ruled that the project is not a recognized obligation, even though the Livermore Successor Agency's Oversight Board had repeatedly advised otherwise. According to Len Alexander, LVPAC's Executive Director, "With all its administrative remedies exhausted, LVPAC had no choice but to turn to the courts."

Financially, last year was a good one for Pleasanton business and government. The current year promises to be even better, according to Mayor Jerry Thorne during his annual State of the City speech to the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce. Thorne cited a list of job-growth accomplishments in the city, led by an expansion of Workforce, a software company co-founded by David Duffield, who co-founded PeopleSoft, and then lost it to Larry Ellison and Oracle. University of San Francisco moved its campus from San Ramon to Pleasanton. Local startups have been growing. A sign of Pleasanton's prosperity is its annual average household income of \$127,000, one of the highest in the United States. The national average is \$61,000 and at the state level, \$65,000.

The Pleasanton City Council approved zoning to allow for homeless shelters and supportive housing to locate in the city as required by state law under SB 2. The council vote was unanimous, but not a happy one for some. Mayor Jerry Thorne commented, "This is just another nail in the coffin of local control." Approved by the council was an overlay district in two commercial areas where homeless shelters would be allowed as a permitted use. A conditional use permit would not be required. The second change related to supportive and transitional housing, which calls for homes where less than six residents are located to be treated the same as regular housing. A facility with more than six people living in it, would be a permitted use in the multifamily residential district. No special approval would be required, nor would the city need to be notified.

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory developed several cost-cutting contingencies that could start March 10 if "sequestration" took place at the federal level. The Laboratory planned to impose a 10 percent salary reduction for all employees and contractors, a mandatory day off every other Friday, and reductions in certain administrative expenses such as procurements, travel and training. Sandia Laboratory in Livermore expected no salary cuts or mandatory days off, although hiring plans for the rest of 2013 could be affected.

Castlewood Country Club agreed to a new three-year union contract with its workers through Unite Here Local 2850. Management locked out workers in February 2010, and

agreed to let them back in October 2012. The biggest sticking point after the old contract expired was the contribution to health care insurance made by management. Under the agreement, workers will pay \$225 per month for health coverage, whether single or for a family, during the first two years, then \$150 in the last year.

An East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) committee has decided to eliminate the waterslides at Shadow Cliffs Park new Pleasanton. The existing slides, which were installed by park founder Glenn Kierstead when it opened in 1981, will be removed. Many Pleasanton residents were hoping that someone could revive the slides.

Nine out of ten businesses responding to a survey believed Pleasanton to be an excellent or good place to do business. Businesses cited Pleasanton's central location, which provides access to regional markets. Businesses said they feel supported by the community. Infrastructure and services received good ratings with the exception of telecommunications and public transportation systems, which received a ranking below "good." The other low rating came in entertainment opportunities.

MARCH 2013

Elephant ivory and materials related to weapons of mass destruction (WMD) are smuggled across porous international boundaries, often as far from border patrols and official trade routes as the smugglers can get. Both are used for nefarious purposes, with profits from elephant ivory supporting terrorism and unrest across Africa. The National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) International Nonproliferation Export Control Program includes a program called Counter-Trafficking System Development. As part of this NNSA program, two border analysis experts from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), Bob Greenwalt and Wilthea Hibbard, spent a week in Kenya late last year training officers of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) in methods to harden their borders. The primary threat is poachers killing elephants and smuggling the ivory to fund terrorism.

Thomas Spirgi was selected as the next chief executive officer for i-GATE (Innovation for Green Advanced Transportation Excellence) in Livermore. He replaced Rob White. i-GATE operates a 501(c) 3 non-profit technology commercialization center (NEST), an Academic Alliance, and a non-profit facility development corporation.

Director of Library Services Susan Gallinger announced her retirement after a 43-year career in library services, 28 of which she spent with the City of Livermore. Under Susan's watch, the Springtown Branch Library was opened at its current location in 1986. Susan began what has become the Livermore Library Summer Reading Program. She directed the development and opening of the Main Library at the City's Civic Center.

The East Pleasanton Task Force got its first look at development scenarios for the 1000 acres on the eastern border of the city. About 400 acres are considered developable. Proposed numbers of units ranged from 1200 to 2000. The task force expressed concern about the number of units and proposed densities. Two types of land uses unique to the city are included in all three of the alternatives. The first, "campus office," was described as a large-scale, single-tenant, administrative or medical technology office development planned in a campus-like setting. The second is referred to as "destination use." This might include commercial or public facilities that are specifically suited for a lakefront site, such as a restaurant, retreat, conference center, or interpretative center.

The 1st Appellate Court sided with Pleasanton in the appeal filed by Jennifer and Frederic Lin over the Oak Grove development. The appeal, filed in March 2011, claimed breach of contract. The Lins originally sued the city for the right to build 51 houses on 600 acres they own in the southeast hills of Pleasanton. The city council had approved two ordinances for the Oak Grove development. One was a planned unit development (PUD); the second a development agreement. Each ordinance contained a "poison pill" provision stating that if either were overturned by a referendum, the other was also void. The lawsuit was filed after Pleasanton voters backed a referendum overturning the approval of the PUD in 2010. The ruling issued in March 2013 by Judge Martin Jenkins upheld the Superior Court decision that dismissed the lawsuit. Jenkins also awarded the city costs on appeal. The original suit was dismissed by Alameda County Superior Court Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers. In her decision, Judge Rogers wrote that the plain terms of both ordinances indicate that both ordinances would be set aside in the event of a successful referendum of one. Once the referendum occurred, the condition that would invalidate the ordinance came to pass and no contractual duty was created.

Hundreds of people turned out for a look at the future home of the Livermore Valley Charter Preparatory (LVCP) high school. LVCP, which opened in 2011, is currently housed at the former Portola Elementary School site on Portola Avenue. The new site is located on Independence Drive, across from Cornerstone Fellowship and Costco. LVCP will occupy about half of the 80,000 square foot facility.

The board of Buenas Vidas Youth Ranch determined that Tri-Valley Haven would take over operation of the Buenas Vidas Thrift Store. After serving youths since the 1970s, Buenas Vidas was ending its service, and disposing of its assets.

The dedication of the Fire Station One Memorial Garden was hosted by the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department (LFPD) and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6298. The garden, located at 3560 Nevada Street in Pleasanton, was dedicated to U.S. Army Specialist Jameson Lindskog, a military medic and Pleasanton resident who was killed in Afghanistan in 2011. The site was selected by SPC Lindskog's family to recognize the connection between his role as a combat medic and the fire department's responsibility to provide emergency medical assistance to the community. SPC Lindskog also grew up within one mile of Fire Station One.

APRIL 2013

An alliance of organizations began working together to convince the State Parks Department to change its plans for Tesla Park. The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (OHMVR) plans to convert the 3,400 acres into a second vehicular recreation area. The land is adjacent to the existing 1600-acre Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area (CSVHR). Celeste Garamendi leads the Livermore-area group, Friends of Tesla Park, that has the goal to keep off-road vehicles out of the unspoiled, state-owned Tesla site. The supporters want to permanently protect the acreage by establishing it as a non-motorized low impact historic and natural resource park and preserve. On the other side of the issue are off-roaders who ride their dirt bikes and ATVs (all terrain vehicles) at Carnegie and would like to see more places where they can use their vehicles. The state is in the process of a general plan update and environmental review of the proposal to create a vehicular recreation area on the Tesla site.

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board of Directors approved use of \$22,000 from the Buckley Trust Fund to finance the purchase and installation of a video security system for Ravenswood Historic Site. The system monitors activity at the site in an effort to prevent vandalism.

Two students at Junction Avenue K-8 School in Livermore scientists found an award-winning way to combine their love of engineering with saving the lives of birds. The two 13-year-olds worked together for months to create their project "Saving Raptors One Windmill at a Time," which won the middle school Grand Prize in Engineering at the Alameda County Science and Engineering Fair (ACSEF). The ACSEF provides a forum for stimulating student interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The Pleasanton City Council voted unanimously to ban the use of polystyrene foam (PS6) containers to package food starting July 1, 2013. The ordinance requires food vendors, including restaurants, delis, supermarkets, cafeterias, street vendors and other food outlets, to provide their customers with containers that are either recyclable or compostable. The new rules do not impact the use of the containers for raw foods, such as trays for raw meats in supermarkets and food prepackaged outside of Pleasanton, such as Cup of Noodles. Food vendors would have until January 1, 2014 to replace PS6 containers.

Zone 7 Water Agency directors voted to transform a rocky, barren stretch of the Arroyo Mocho near Isabel Avenue and Stanley boulevard. The site is to be planted with trees. The project was the first for Zone 7 that will transform a more typically urban flood control channel, with its concrete barriers, into a more natural creek setting.

Pleasanton declined to join a proposed countywide energy council, electing instead to pursue an effort to create an energy council comprised of Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin. Staff had recommended that Pleasanton not join the JPA. Issues included formation of a new regional agency that would create policy; the probability that due to the weighted voting, Pleasanton would receive a lesser amount of funding; focus would be on the other side of the hills, minimizing Tri-Valley needs; and there is the potential to duplicate efforts of other agencies. Stopwaste.org approved the formation of a joint powers authority (JPA) for the energy council. Mayor Jerry Thorne commented, "It feels a little like empire building. It is wise to step back and see what happens. I like the idea of the Tri-Valley effort."

The City of Livermore agreed to work in partnership with WattzOn and Chevron Energy Solutions to move its Capacity Project forward. The Capacity Project consists of two major initiatives. One goal is to help residents and small businesses save money. The second builds a workforce to meet future employment needs. WattzOn combines advanced technology, behavioral science and data and analytics to provide innovative energy management solutions. WattzOn began working with the Livermore High School Green Engineering Academy, where interns are taught to identify no cost energy savings.

Granada High School baseball coach Steve Richards opted to combine the cross-town rivals varsity game with an event to honor area veterans to inspire the young players. Veterans were invited to attend the LHS - GHS varsity baseball game on April 24 as a "big thank you to all of them."

An Alameda County Supervisors Planning and Transportation Committee delayed a recommendation to approve a rural solar energy policy. Supervisor Scott Haggerty, whose district includes Livermore, Dublin, and part of Sunol, and Nate Miley, whose district includes Pleasanton and the canyonlands in Castro Valley, make up the committee. They disagreed on what the policy should include. Haggerty said that he could not support any of the three options offered by staff. One would ban solar farms from all farmland designated by the state as important. Another would allow solar installations on important farmland, provided there were mitigation. There would be a 1000-acre cap on important farmland. The third option would allow solar on important farmland with no cap.

Dublin Mayor Tim Sbranti announced that he will seek the 16th District Assembly seat in 2014. The incumbent, Joan Buchanan, will be termed out in 2014. Buchanan and Sbranti are both Democrats.

The Board of Directors of the Alameda County Fair Association announced the selection of Jerome Hoban as the Alameda County Fair's new Chief Executive Officer. Jerome Hoban, who worked at the Orange County Fair in management, replaced Rick Pickering who left the Alameda County Fair in December 2012 to accept the General Manager position at the California State Fair.

The Pleasanton Unified School District was offered a funding match by the Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) to help meet a goal of reducing next year's first-grade classes from 30 to 25 students. Total cost for class size reduction (CSR) for the district's first-graders was \$325,000. Under PPIE's proposal, the district would have to provide \$117,000 from its general fund. The remainder, \$208,000, would come from PPIE. PPIE raised \$330,000 to fund programs at the elementary school level. It had committed \$200,000 to district literacy coaches and counselors, leaving \$130,000. An additional amount of money was raised recently, bringing the total to \$208,000, which could go toward CSR.

Global thought leaders, entrepreneurs, authors, artists, innovators and local educators were invited to present their ideas on the theme, "Creating our Future: Innovate + Educate" at TEDxLivermore in June at Las Positas College. TEDxLivermore was supported by Rebellion Lab (Oakland), Valley Montessori School, Las Positas College, Innovation Tri-Valley, Yámana Science & Technology and the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Waste Management of Alameda County and the East Bay Clean Cities Coalition held a grand opening for the Altamont Landfill's Closed-Loop Bio-Methane Fueling Station. A system installed at the Altamont Landfill collects gas given off by decomposing trash and converts it into fuel that powers garbage collection trucks carrying tons of garbage each day between the Davis Street Transfer Station in San Leandro and the landfill in Livermore. Each day, the facility produces 13,000 gallons of locally-made clean-burning natural gas vehicle fuel.

A road is not a structure. That was one of three decisions by the Pleasanton City Council in regard to the implementation of Measure PP. The ridgeline protection initiative was approved by voters in 2008. Since then, the staff has been working towards providing information on what would be permitted under the measure, which restricts structures from being placed on 25% slope or greater, or within 100 vertical feet of a ridgeline. Developments of fewer than 10 units are exempt. The council's decision that a road is not a structure, reversed an earlier vote. In addition, to declaring that a road is not a structure, the council rejected the idea of creating an inventory of impacted properties, and determined that measurement of the 100 ft. setback should be at the pad elevation. All of the votes followed staff recommendation. The second reading of the proposed changes has been delayed indefinitely, due to pending threat of litigation by supporters of Measure PP.

The Alameda County Labor Council and the Democratic Party of Alameda County endorsed Olivia Sanwong for the open seat on the Pleasanton City council. The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce Business and Community Political Action Committee (BACPAC) endorsed Kathy Narum.

MAY 2013

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory retirees contemplated a change in strategy in their legal effort to force the University of California to return them to its health care programs. The UC Livermore Retirees Group explored the possibility of changing its lawsuit to a class action. It was thought that a class action suit could force the University to "pay more attention" to retiree claims because of the potential for large damages, according to the leader of the Retirees Group, Joe Requa. Requa supposed that the class might include all LLNL retirees who had once qualified for UC health care.

In a shake-up at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, L. Jeffrey (Jeff) Atherton was named director of the National Ignition Facility (NIF). He replaced Ed Moses, who remained the principal associate director for the NIF & Photon Science Directorate. To accommodate and prioritize the demand for NIF shots and to ensure "only the best science is done," Lab Director Parney Albright and Moses implemented several processes in NIF governance. These include: Formal interactions with various working groups and councils involved in HED stockpile stewardship and weapons science, national security, inertial confinement fusion and basic science programs, as each plans use of NIF; formation of subject matter expert working groups in targets, diagnostics and operations; and proactive work of several NIF planning groups and the NIF User Office.

The Amador Valley High School competition civics team won second place again in the national We the People competition held at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. It was the fifth time an Amador team took second place in the contest. The school won the top trophy in 1995. Brian Ladd and Mairi Wohlgemuth coached the Amador team.

Kathy Narum was chosen by voters to fill the vacant Pleasanton City Council seat. With all of the votes counted, Narum had collected 4,586 votes to 3,109 for the second place finisher David Miller. Olivia Sanwong finished third with 1,977 votes and Mark Hamilton last with 1,861 votes. Just over 27 percent of registered voters turned in ballots in the by-mail only election. Narum took the same path to the council as Mayor Jerry Thorne and one of the councilmembers elected last November, Jerry Pentin. All three served on the Parks and Recreation Commission and Planning Commission.

The Valley's Assemblymember, Joan Buchanan (D-Alamo), criticized Gov. Jerry Brown's backing of the idea to build two 35-mile long tunnels as a solution to improving the Delta environment and trying to obtain more water for districts, including Zone 7 Water Agency. Buchanan said the plan is incomplete concerning its cost estimate. Another

objection was the plan's inability to accomplish its stated goals of improving the Delta for endangered species and delivering water for the customers of state and federal water projects.

A request to double the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) allowed by Measure D on agriculturally zoned property was denied by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. County Measure D, approved by voters in 2000, limited the ratio to 0.01 percent of the total parcel area. Raising the FAR would have allowed the owner of a Castro Valley riding academy to put more roof area over riders. Opponents of the change, such as Measure D co-author Dick Schneider, said that only a countywide vote could amend Measure D.

The Allan Hancock College Board of Trustees offered Kevin G. Walthers, Ph.D. the position of superintendent /president. Walthers was the current president of Las Positas College. According to a news release, during his tenure at Las Positas College, Walthers was recognized for building college relationships with the community, creating innovative fund-raising programs, leading midterm accreditation requirements and building a strong and diverse administrative team. He also guided the college through the most difficult budget crisis in its history, with a satisfactory outcome.

Pleasanton dipped into its reserves to pay off bonds used to finance the construction of the Callippe Preserve Golf Course and infrastructure. City Director of Finance Emily Wagner noted that she and the city manager, Nelson Fialho, determined there was idle cash available to pay off the debt. The move saved the city \$10 million.

Dublin's need for capital improvements to accommodate the city's growth was projected to create a deficit in the city's reserve fund over the next four or five years. The city council looked at ideas to raise revenue such as promoting more business for Dublin, with the resulting boosts to property tax and sales tax revenues. Also considered was exploring the creation of an economic development corporation in a private-public partnership similar to the Valley's i-GATE.

The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) was selected to participate in the Equal Opportunity Schools (OES) AP/IB Equity & Excellence Project. The program is part of the Google Global Impact Award Project. Equal Opportunity Schools partner with school, district, county, state, and national leaders around the country to close race and income enrollment and success gaps in challenging high school courses and advanced classes. The goal is to improve student engagement, achievement, college readiness and success. Granada and Livermore High Schools were two of only 79 high schools from across the U.S. that were selected to participate in the most rigorous study to date on the impact of Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) on college completion for Latino, African American, and low-income students.

An Alameda County jury awarded five former employees of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory a total of \$2.7 million in compensation for estimated losses suffered when they were laid off in 2008, allegedly in violation of an employment contract. The company that operates, Lawrence Livermore National Security, issued a statement saying that it "respectfully disagreed" with the jury's verdict and the \$2.7 million award. Apart from the uncertainty of outcomes, payouts from the breach-of-contract awards may be postponed until the age discrimination cases are decided. These cases could take years, given the potential for drawn-out trials and appeals.

The Pleasanton Unified School District put plenty of STEAM into its presentation to community and business leaders who were invited to an education summit at Amador Valley High School. Nearly 100 attended. In recent years, school districts were focused on classes called STEM, referring to the initials for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Pleasanton added an A — the Arts — to show equal status with the sciences,

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory offered a voluntary separation program for up to 600 employees. The National Nuclear Security Administration approved the Self-Select Voluntary Separation Program (SSVSP), which was available to all career employees. The program will offer one week of "consideration pay," or base salary per year of continuous service, up to 26 weeks. The SSVSP was offered as a means to address budget challenges in fiscal year 2014.

The California Energy Commission (CEC) awarded \$1.7 million to a partnership between Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Cool Earth Solar Inc. (CES) to conduct a community-scale renewable energy integration demonstration project at the Livermore Valley Open Campus (LVOC). The project will test and demonstrate a model for how communities can generate solar energy. It will create a way to forecast solar generation and develop energy management tools to adapt to that forecast. In 2012, CES also signed an agreement with Sandia National Laboratories that could make solar energy more affordable and accessible. Sandia researchers will help pilot, characterize and validate CES's inflated, photovoltaic (CPV) technology. The company's equipment will be located on a five-acre site known as the Clean Energy Demonstration Field on the LVOC.

The Pleasanton school board approved class size reduction for the first grade. Starting in August, there would be 25 students per class instead of 30. The district used \$112,000 from its reserved funds and \$213,000 provided by Pleasanton Partners in Education (PPIE) to enable the change.

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) staff led members of the Alameda County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) on a tour of its future Doolan Canyon park. EBRPD's goal was to show off a gem of a future park, and to familiarize LAFCO members with a key need: access, currently available through Doolan Canyon Road. LAFCO deals with services to new areas of development, including infrastructure. Doolan Canyon is situated between Livermore and Dublin. The area south of the park became controversial when Pacific Union proposed a 1900-unit senior community there. The land is outside of the planning sphere of influence of both Livermore and Dublin. Livermore was assigned the sphere of influence before county voters passed Measure D, but lost it afterward. Currently, the county makes decisions regarding the area, which is outside the urban growth boundary of both the county and Livermore. If development were to take place, it would occur as part of Dublin. Both Livermore and Dublin applied to LAFCO for sphere of influence designation in 2010. LAFCO told the cities to conduct talks and work out a solution within 90 days. That deadline passed.

Crowds gathered in downtown Livermore to watch the start of Stage 7 of the Amgen Tour of California. The stage started in Livermore and ended at the summit of Mt. Diablo. As part of the event in downtown Livermore, a Breakaway Mile walk was held. Taking part were 150 community members including cancer survivors, patients, caregivers and advocates.

The 40th Anniversary Celebration of the Horizons Program was celebrated on May 22, 2013. Horizons, a division of the Livermore Police Department, provides effective, proven, caring and affordable services and programs to meet the mental health needs of youth and families in Livermore and the Tri-Valley area.

Researchers from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) and New York University agreed to take on some of the pressing problems in major urban centers, such as transportation and clean air. Those were some of the subjects of a new memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed by LLNL and New York University on behalf of the Brooklyn-based Center for Urban Science and Progress (CUSP). To better understand the performance of urban systems, and to predict their performance will require modeling and simulation at the scale and speed of the Lab's high performance computing resources.

The Simon Property Group moved forward with plans to add 192,000 sq. ft. of retail space to the Premium Outlets in Livermore. It was anticipated that the new area will open in the fall of 2014. It would consist of between 50 and 80 stores depending on which stores sign leases and how large a space is needed by each. The center is located on 42 acres of land at the southeast corner of El Charro Road and Interstate 580, where the cities of Livermore, Pleasanton, and Dublin meet.

A dedication ceremony for the Livermore Heritage Guild's new traveling museum, the Livermore HistoryMobile, took place. Livermore Mayor John Marchand declared the day HistoryMQobile Day with a proclamation presented to project leader Nancy Mulligan and Guild president Jeff Kaskey. Other honorees included donors and Guild volunteers whose efforts over the past 2 years created the educational/historical vehicle.

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City CarShare, Toyota and Hacienda Business Park combined to provide Hacienda Business Park employees with a fleet of 15 electric vehicles that can be rented on an hourly basis. The results of the program will be studied by UC Berkeley for its impact as an environmentally sustainable program, said James Paxson, general manager of the Hacienda Park Owners Association. All cars would be booked in advance through CityCarShare via phone, computer web page, or smart phone app. Renters must be members of CityCarShare, which is an 11-year-old non-profit organization based in San Francisco.

Pleasanton school trustees made it clear to city representatives that a site for an elementary school for the East Side should be reserved in view of the housing numbers projected by city planners. The district would need time to review developers' plans as they unfold to better estimate what the district will need in order to provide a school, they said.

The draft Bay Area Plan was not a big hit with the Livermore City Council. The plan, created in an effort to coordinate land use and transportation planning through 2040 in the nine Bay Area counties, was based on the goal to reduce greenhouse gases by encouraging people to live, work and play in the same city. MTC and ABAG led the effort to create the plan that built on existing general plans within the area as well as growth forecasts in housing, jobs and population. For Livermore, the plan projected 13,250 new jobs and 9,600 new homes, which does not match the city's current general plan, which calls for 50,000 new jobs and 8,000 new homes. Councilmember Bob Woerner pointed out that Livermore is on the edge of the planning area. "The plan ignores traffic coming over the Altamont. It assumes there is no traffic. That strikes me as ridiculous." He suggested that staff ask that the plan be more realistic. He used the word "absurd" in describing assumptions used to create the plan.

A total of 399 employees opted to participate in the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's voluntary separation program. Up to 600 employees would have been allowed to take part. With the exit of 399 employees, the Lab's work force dropped from 6200 to 5800.

Nearly eight years after it first opened its doors at a temporary site, and two weeks shy of the ending of this school year, the Livermore Valley Charter School (LVCS) began teaching at its permanent Livermore location at 3252 Constitution Drive on June 3rd.

Residents of North Livermore continued to lobby the city council in an effort to sidetrack the proposed Garaventa Hills development. The proposed subdivision would be located on 31 acres north of Altamont Creek Elementary School. Members of Save the Hill have been speaking at city council meetings during the segment where members of the public are invited to address issues they feel are important. Group members told the council that the proposed 76-unit single family subdivision would result in negative traffic impacts, create a safety issue at a nearby elementary school, and destroy habitat required by special species.

Caltrans and the Alameda County Transportation Commission began construction on a project on Interstate 580 designed to help reduce traffic congestion. The project includes a new carpool lane on westbound Interstate 580 between Greenville Road in Livermore and San Ramon/Foothill Road in Dublin/Pleasanton; a new lane on eastbound Interstate 580 between Isabel Avenue and First Street in Livermore that will make it easier for drivers to enter and exit the freeway; widening the existing roadway and bridges; repaving the freeway; and constructing retaining walls. The \$157 million project is funded primarily by Proposition 1B, a 2006 voter-approved bond.

The 2013-2014 operating and capital improvement plan budgets were approved by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District board of directors. The budget provides the first pay increases for staff in five years, with a 3 percent cost-of-living increase for full-time staff and one-step merit-based increases for part-time staff. Full-time employees will pay an additional 1 percent of pension costs.

A ceremony was held to dedicate Livermorium Plaza at Mill Square Park, 116 South Livermore Avenue. Livermore Mayor John Marchand was joined for the dedication by scientists from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory who collaborated with a team from the Flerov Institute in Dubna, Russia. The collaboration resulted in the creation of two new heavy elements, 114 and 116, now listed on the periodic chart.

The Pleasanton City Council offered input on six different specific plan options for East Pleasanton. Options for housing in the six plans ranged from 1000 units in option 1 to 2,279 homes in option 6. A task force came up with the concepts for a specific plan for development on 1125 acres on the eastside of the city. About 400 acres is considered to be developable, with 100 acres located outside the urban growth boundary. Seven hundred acres are part of the lake area, which will be controlled by the Zone 7 Water District once mining operations are completed. One issue to be determined at a future time was whether Pleasanton would take to the voters the need to move the urban growth boundary to accommodate growth. All six options include retail, commercial and industrial zoning. A school site has been included at the request of the Pleasanton Unified School District. Housing numbers in the various options were: #1, 1000 units, half of them single family; #2, 1426 units, 355 single family; #3, 1710 units, 486 single family; #4, 1283 units, 641 single family; #5, 1756 units, 1053 single family; and #6, 2279 units, 1477 single family. Councilmembers leaned towards options 4, 5 or 6.