

EDITORIAL

Car Sharing

Hacienda Business Park in Pleasanton continues to add innovative ideas to help commuters. Plans are moving ahead to provide employees and residents of the Hacienda Business Park with the opportunity to use electric vehicles.

The idea is to make it easier for people to take public transit to work by providing cars that can be rented for a few hours to go out to lunch or attend a meeting.

Programs already implemented by the park include a free commuter shuttle, carpool and vanpool coordination, development of on-site amenities to assist in the promotion of transportation alternatives and various information campaigns.

The new partnership involves City CarShare, Toyota and Hacienda Business Park. A fleet of 15 electric vehicles will be available for rental on an hourly basis.

City CarShare and Hacienda like the program because it encourages more people to get out of their cars, leading to a cleaner environment. The program will also benefit everyone by taking cars off the road, reducing traffic congestion.

Once in operation, we hope people will take advantage of the program. If the cars are booked frequently, more can be added.

Hacienda is to be commended. We hope other cities and businesses follow its lead.

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Pleasanton Eliminates Senior Class Rankings

In a move to ease stress on students, the Pleasanton school board voted to eliminate class rankings for seniors.

The board at its meeting June 4 also heard a presentation about a solution that has been implemented to reduce student stress -- Peer Advocates, a group of Foothill High school students who help other students with their problems.

Class rank is seen as a major factor in the competitive stress on students, reported Kevin Johnson, senior director of pupil services.

The stress issue came to light three years ago after several students in the district committed suicide. Community forums were held, including one organized by Mary Hayashi, who at the time represented Pleasanton in the State Assembly. She created bills in the Legislature that identified signs of depression and how to deal with it.

The district's dropping of class ranking drew support from various groups contacted by the district in connection with the district's strategic plan.

and Fremont where students were trained to work with others. They provide the counseling and education in the classrooms.

One member of Peer Advocates joined the group because he was a recipient of the group's services. He had sought help after he started sinking into depression, and using drugs.

After he was caught with drugs, he asked himself, "Where will I go?" The answer was Peer Advocates. "I was super-shy. Now I give presentations to health classes," he said.

CSR WILL BE PART OF DISCUSSION

On another item, parents again asked the board to consider installing class size reduction (CSR) in second grade next year. The board already authorized smaller

class sizes for the first grade for next year.

Although all board trustees like CSR, they again said it's the tough financial situation that prevents them from implementing it at other grade levels. Despite more money from the Legislature in the coming school year, the district is still recovering from funding cutbacks over the past six years.

Trustees said they will talk about CSR at their June 18 meeting, but only as part of the whole budget picture. With the state budget uncertain until at least June 15, as a practical matter, the district can't do anything to implement CSR right now, said the board.

Emmeline Chen gave the board an updated report on pledges from parents and community members

who would donate to pay for CSR. She said the total is now \$42,000 for second-grade CSR, \$7000 for kindergarten, and \$5000 for third grade. Districtwide, it costs about \$325,000 to implement CSR for one grade level, going from the current 30 students in a class to 25 students.

Gov. Jerry Brown has said that he will ask the Legislature for money for districts to fund CSR from kindergarten to third grade, but that would not begin until the 2014-15 school year. Board members want to wait and see how much of that promise will materialize, and where it is in relation to the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) that Brown has said school districts will be using in the coming year and beyond.

Group Files Freedom of Information Act Lawsuit

Tri-Valley CAREs (Communities Against a Radioactive Environment) has filed a Federal lawsuit in United States District Court for the Northern District of California against the U.S. Dept. of Energy (DOE) and

operations at the agencies' Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) as required by law. The information that is the subject of the litigation is overdue by time periods between one and two years.

went unanswered."

The group's lawsuit asks the judge to issue a court order appointing a Special Counsel to investigate the pattern of abuse wherein DOE and NNSA failed to comply with the law. The