



## A Look Back at the First Six Months of 2013

December 27, 2013

### JUNE 2013

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.

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