



Youth have spent all year preparing their livestock to show at the Alameda County Fair. In the photo, breeding sheep await the judges' decision.

## Livestock Auction On Final Day

By Patricia Koning

This Sunday will mark the culmination of months of hard work by 4-H and Future Farmers of America (FFA) youth. Over 400 rabbits, hogs, steer, lambs, and goats will be for sale to the highest bidder in the Alameda County Fair Youth Livestock Auction.

Monica Reis, Alameda County Fair exhibit supervisor, says that the auction can be an emotional experience for younger kids. "These animals become like pets," she says. "However, auction is always the goal. This is part of life for ranch kids."

Reis, a self-described rancher, buys a goat at the auction every year. (See AUCTION, page 6)



Ron Hyde with his certificate.

## Hyde, Severin Selected for Patriot Award

Two Pleasanton residents, Charlotte Severin and Ron Hyde, are recipients of the Ed Kinney Community Patriot Award.

A reception was held at the Museum on Main to honor the two. This is the third year that the awards have been presented in memory of former Mayor Kinney.

Severin was honored for her work with the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council (PCAC) and the American Cancer Society; Hyde for his projects through Pleasanton North Rotary and East Bay Stand Down. Both were honored for a second time during the community's annual fourth of July celebration, "Celebrating Freedom and Its Evolution since the Revolution."

William Berck, former superintendent of Pleasanton Schools and of Alameda County, introduced Severin. Founder of the PCAC, Severin worked with Berck to renovate the Amador Theater between 1980-1990. PCAC held many fund-raisers, including "Holiday Reflections" at the then new Stoneridge Mall, to pay for the addition of a new lobby in front of the theater, new theater seats, and upgraded lighting and sound systems. Now the theater, located

(See PATRIOT AWARD, page 8)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen  
Changing light creates a colorful view in North Livermore.

# New Initiative Exempts Auto Mall Land

A new citizens initiative has been launched so as not to affect pending plans to relocate a Pleasanton auto dealership on the Staples Ranch.

Pleasanton residents Matt Morrison and Anne Fox announced the launch of the new initiative, *Pleasanton Eastern Gateway Initiative*, in a press release issued Monday.

The initiative aims to protect dwindling publicly-owned open space within Pleasanton's eastern urban growth boundary, and defines El Charro Road south from I-580 as a "city entry" to ensure sensitivity to aesthetic consider-

ations. The initiative exempts forty acres of the Staples Ranch property next to the I-580 interchange at El Charro from the provisions of the initiative.

Says co-proponent Matt Morrison, "As a group, we had from the beginning a goal to ensure that the Pleasanton Auto Mall be provided opportunities to remain in Pleasanton. After meeting with executives from Hendrick Automotive Group, I am satisfied that the option of expanding at their current location, which the Automotive Group investigated as a preference, is not viable."

Proponents of the initiative note that entrances to the city to the west and south have parklands and open space. They want the same for the eastern gateway.

The intent of the initiative is to amend Pleasanton's General Plan to protect any undeveloped public lands within the Urban Growth Boundary larger than 25 acres east of Santa Rita Road from commercial development, residential development and urban sprawl. Public lands would be preserved for permanent parkland, open space, and/or green belt. Land uses include open

space, parks, sports fields, schools, daycare centers, not-for-profit youth organizations, and art facilities.

According to Anne Fox, co-proponent of the initiative, "This initiative will expand on the policy to preserve community separators as outlined in the Alameda County East County Area Plan. The Pleasanton Urban Growth Boundary was defined by a vote of the citizens of Pleasanton, and a vote of the citizens is required to modify it. By placing open space, parkland, and sports fields at the eastern gateway of Pleasanton, this will

ensure that residents living on the east side of Pleasanton, many who lack backyards, enjoy the same public amenities as the rest of Pleasanton. It will also reduce traffic in the most congested part of town. Pleasanton's citizens should be given the opportunity to participate directly on how the few remaining undeveloped parcels of land are developed."

Morrison notes that the proposed *Pleasanton Eastern Gateway Initiative* does not prohibit the City of Pleasanton from completing the entitlement requirements described in the Memorandum

(See INITIATIVE, page 5)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

New Pleasanton Poet Laureate Martha Meltzer plans to provide more children's programs.

## New Official Pleasanton Poet Will Add Children's Programs

Pleasanton's new poet laureate, Martha Meltzer, plans to keep up all of the duties of the city's official poet, but likely will put special emphasis on schoolchildren.

Meltzer plans to become involved in the annual literary festival which the city hosts in April. She will also continue the bi-monthly poetry readings by invited poets at Century House. In addition, Meltzer wants to help combine poetry with visual art, something that Livermore laureate Connie Post has done. Meltzer was involved in that effort.

"Connie selected 25 of us, and assigned different pieces of art to us. We each wrote a poem about

the art. The art was displayed along with the poem in one of the Livermore wineries," said Meltzer. The idea has her thinking about putting poetry in public places, perhaps at the Museum on Main Street.

The emphasis especially dear to Meltzer's heart will be encouraging more youth poetry. As the librarian at Alisal Elementary School for the past nine years, she has had plenty of contact with children. Meltzer wants to help Pleasanton's schoolchildren, perhaps by bringing "Poetry 180" into the classroom.

That is an idea from former U.S. poet laureate Billy Collins.

He publishes a poem a day on his web site for teachers to share with their classes. It's aimed at high school and middle school students. "It's exciting and exhilarating what these young kids can do, given the opportunity," said Meltzer. She hopes to contact English department chairs and the librarians at the schools to see what might be accomplished with Poetry 180, or perhaps with something else that may be devised.

Meltzer wants to encourage students to have work published. "It's a thrill for kids to see their work in print," she said. Meltzer enjoyed that experience when

(See POET, page 2)

## Council Undecided on Reitter's Replacement

The Livermore City Council could not agree on a candidate to replace Tom Reitter on the Livermore City Council.

They will hold another meeting later this week.

Reitter resigned from the council as of June 30. The council chose to appoint a successor to complete Reitter's term, which ends Nov. 2009.

Members of the public, and Reitter, voiced support for Jeff Williams.

Reitter stated, "All of the times I ran for office, I never felt people were voting for me, but the positions I supported. I don't see the council's job as trying to replace me, but one of selecting someone who has similar positions to mine. I recommend Jeff Williams."

Others also spoke to the similarity of stands on various positions between Williams and Reitter on issues such as preservation of North Livermore and the urban growth boundary.

Councilmember Lorraine Dietrich nominated former councilmember Tom Vargas for the position.

Dietrich said, "The council has two choices, appoint a new councilmember or leave the seat vacant and declare a special election in November. The only justification to make an appointment is to bring on someone not at the beginning of a steep learning curve. There is only one of the applicants able to hit the ground running. I favor Tom Vargas for the position."

Mayor Marshall Kamena supported the selection.

Prior to the selection process, on July 2 the council interviewed the six finalists: Doug Horner, Steven Hunter, Carolyn Seigfried, Tom Vargas, Darryl West, and Jeff Williams.

Questions focused on such issues as the urban growth boundary (UGB), the future of North Livermore, the 1800-seat performing arts theater, the scenic corridor, Livermore Airport, potential for conflict of interest, and the budget.

Doug Horner is currently serving on the Planning Commission. He noted that he had spent the

(See COUNCIL, page 5)

## Pleasanton Schools Eye Possible Fee Hike On Affordable Housing

Boosting development fees for affordable housing and planning for a higher city population cap were the two major ideas coming out of a Pleasanton school board workshop.

No decisions were made on the two ideas at the study session June 26. Both thoughts were raised in the spirit of asking staff to draw up more scenarios for meeting future facilities needs. The city is winding up its general plan review. Decisions made

by the city council would put a sharper focus on growth projections for the school district.

Trustee Pat Kernan brought up both ideas. The school impact fee that developers pay for affordable housing is currently capped at \$2.63, which is the state-allowed maximum for affordable housing. That is compared to \$7.75 per square foot for the voluntary fee agreement that the Pleasanton district negoti-

(See FEE, page 12)

## School Board Can't Agree On Site for Day School

By Patricia Koning

At last week's meeting of the Livermore Board of Education, the trustees voted unanimously to move forward with a Community Day School (CDS). However, the board could not agree on a location. Votes on both the former Almond Avenue and Arroyo Mocho elementary school sites as potential locations did not garner the necessary support.

"I think it is really appropriate to make sure both communities are represented at any meeting where you make the decision on where to locate the school," said Livermore School Superintendent Brenda Miller.

The CDS will serve students in grades 7 through 9 who have been expelled from traditional schools, identified as at-risk, or referred by a School Attendance Review Board (SARB).

At the meeting, Bob See, Director of Student Services and Special Education, presented the trustees with three possible locations: Almond Avenue, Arroyo Mocho, or the undeveloped Inman property.

Both the Almond and Mocho sites have space to open the pro-

gram in the 2007/08 school year. See estimated that a CDS could be opened at Mocho with an additional \$50-90,000 in staffing costs. There would be no additional cost at Almond because the District would leverage existing administration for the Vineyard and Adult Education programs. Opening a program at the Inman site would take 1-2 years and require extensive planning and construction.

Parents of children attending the Laboratory Employee's Children's Center, which serves employees of Lawrence Livermore and Sandia National Laboratories, have already registered their disapproval of the District's proposal to locate the CDS at the Almond Site. The Children's Center is adjacent to the Almond Site.

At last week's meeting, Almond neighbor Rion Causey also spoke out against the Almond location. "The location you have chosen is within 100 feet of my home. I now have the honor of being the closest person to the site," he said. "There

(See DAY SCHOOL, page 3)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The chance to play with Legos is one of the favorite activities of the younger set at the Alameda County Fair. The fair continues through July 8 at the fairgrounds in Pleasanton. Entertainment, carnival rides, live horse racing, and a variety of exhibits offer something for everyone.

## Tauscher Aims At Ban Of Noisy Small Planes

Rep. Ellen Tauscher (D-Alamo) has been successful in convincing a House committee chairman to add an earmark to a bill in Congress to phase out

noisy, Stage 2 aircraft from using general aviation airports.

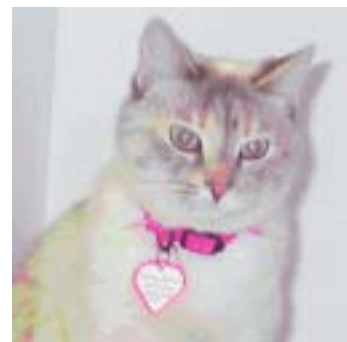
After receiving letters from Livermore residents upset about airport noise from the older cat-

egory of Stage 2 airplanes, Tauscher wrote a month ago to Rep. Jim Oberstar, a Minnesota Democrat who is chair of the

(See BAN, page 3)

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### PET OF THE WEEK

Zoe is a very sweet little 3-year old Siamese mix craving some "one on one" attention. She was left behind when her people moved away, and is a bit confused that she no longer has her happy home, but is eager to fit in with a new loving family. She can be shy and reserved with new people, and would do best in a quiet home without small children. She gets

along well with other cats. For more information about Zoe, call Valley Humane Society at 925-426-8656, or visit her at our Adoption Center at 3670 Nevada St. in Pleasanton's Stanley Business Park Wed-Sun 11 am-5 pm. Valley Humane Society holds mobile pet adoptions for dogs at Pet Extreme in Livermore every Saturday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

## Do You Remember?



By Anne Homan

### The Bothwell Arts Center

The two-acre city block bounded by Seventh and Eighth and South G and H Streets has been an important part of Livermore history since 1892 when it became the site of the original Livermore High School. After the brick high school opened on Maple Street in 1930, the old wooden high school was torn down, and the city began planning a park on the site. With the help of \$16,000 in WPA funds, Recreation Park, with a softball diamond, two tennis courts and horseshoe courts, was dedicated on May 14, 1939 "to the spirit of fair play, clean sport, and the healthful recreation of outdoor sport." After the ceremony, Mayor George F. Tubbs took the mound, Samuel Bothwell Sr. crouched behind the plate and Dr. Paul Dolan stood in the batter's box. Dolan hit several fouls and then "slashed a drive out past shortstop to start softball on a new plane in Livermore." Some of the attendees adjourned to Sweeney's Restaurant for a celebratory meal.

Samuel Bothwell Sr. had emigrated from Glasgow, Scotland, to San Francisco in October 1906, hoping to find carpentry work in San Francisco, which was rebuilding after the earthquake and fire. He was successful. His wife Agnes (Marshall) and their four children—Nan, Elizabeth, Anna and Sam—followed four years later. They lived in Oakland, where in 1914 the youngest child, David, was born. The family came to Livermore in 1915 and bought a prune ranch on the west side of Vallecitos Road, not far from its intersection with Wetmore Road.

Samuel founded a construction company with his sons, Samuel Jr. and David, who continued the business after their father's retirement. They built many downtown structures, including Valley Furniture; the old Beauty College building; Granucci's, now the Blue Bar, and Jim's Glass on First Street as well as Livermore Auto and Tire on South Livermore Avenue. In the early 1950s they tore down the remnants of the swimming pool built by H.P. Winegar and erected houses along S Street by today's Centennial Park. They built houses on Palm Avenue and on J Street.

According to his grandson, Don Bothwell, Samuel Bothwell was a stern man and held old-fashioned views of a woman's "place." His sons attended high school, but not his daughters. Nevertheless, Elizabeth and Anna ran a dry goods business from 1929 to 1954 on First Street. Louis Gardella Jr. recalled that his mother and grandmother bought their sewing materials there.

Don remembered fondly many Sundays and Christmases spent at his grandparents' home with his aunts and uncles and cousins. He enjoyed his grandmother's cooking except for some sort of "real salty fish" that she made occasionally. Both grandparents retained their Scottish brogue. His grandfather never did quite understand the phrase "trick or treat." On Hallowe'en, a holiday unknown in Scotland, he would not give out treats to the children who came to his door until they performed some "trick"—for example, tap dancing or singing. Samuel Bothwell loved to fish; he often went down to his pier at Old River, now flooded by the Clifton Court Forebay. In May 1936 he won a new fishing rod when he caught a 9½-pound striped bass at a river outing sponsored by the Livermore-Pleasanton Rod and Gun Club.

Bothwell served as a Livermore councilmember from 1932 to 1940 and helped to oversee Depression-era Works Progress Administration projects. "Due largely to his practical knowledge, it is probable that no city secured more real value from WPA than did Livermore." The projects included street and sidewalk construction throughout the city, the rebuilding of the city hall and the development of Recreation Park. During World War II he was chairman of the war ration and price control board in Livermore.

Without pay, Samuel Bothwell supervised volunteers in the construction of the recreation center building at the site of Recreation Park in 1949. He also organized the use of donated materials and loaned machinery. The keys to the new rec center, which included three clubrooms, a kitchen, restrooms and an office, were given to Mayor Louis Gardella on April 25, 1950. When Bothwell died in 1952, the ten members of the LARPD board bought a three-foot high trophy to be inscribed with the name of the person who had contributed the most to Livermore recreation during the preceding year. Several of the recipients were Dr. Ray Gurney, who won in 1955 for his development of Arroyo Park, and Al Caffodio who received the award in 1964 for his organization of the Tri-Valley Relays. Each winner received a small version of the trophy to keep. In 1965 LARPD renamed the recreation building the Samuel Bothwell Sr. Recreation Center and gave the last in the series of 13 awards to architect Bill Roberts, who had donated plans for redesigning the rec center building and for the restrooms in LARPD's Camp Shelly at Lake Tahoe.

LARPD held classes and sponsored the Teen Canteen in the recreation center, which also became a meeting place for senior citizens. In 2005 LARPD built the Robert Livermore Community Center on East Avenue to house all its activities and renamed the Samuel Bothwell Sr. Recreation Center. The newly christened Bothwell Arts Center is "an affordable incubator for the arts, with space available for classroom, workshop, rehearsal, and performance."

Meanwhile, the Bothwell trophy has disappeared. Does any reader know where it is?

(Readers can reach me at am3homan@yahoo.com.)

### Pleasanton Chamber Leadership Program Taking Applications

The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce is now accepting applications for the Leadership Pleasanton Class of 2007-08, with the ideal candidates having one or more of the following interests:

Desire to serve in a leadership role within the Pleasanton community; Interested and/or involved in vitalizing and strengthening the community; Passionate for the community and the people who live here; Committed to mentoring and developing leaders dedicated to the concept of community stew-

ardship; and Ability to meet the participation guidelines of the program.

Applications are available at the Pleasanton Chamber office (777 Peters Avenue), can be downloaded from our website at: www.pleasanton.org, or by calling 846-5858.

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## State of the City

# Mayor Describe What's Great about Livermore

Livermore is a great place to live.

Much of the credit for improving the quality of life goes to City Manager Linda Barton and her staff. Mayor Marshall Kamena made that point during his annual state of the city speech last week. Kamena also mentioned that business people and members of the public have stepped forward with a, "May I Help You," attitude. He cited numerous awards and accolades that have come to the city because of the efforts of many.

His talk was presented at a luncheon hosted by the Chamber of Commerce at Poppy Ridge Golf Course.

Kamena praised the city manager and city staff in implementing the council's policies. He joked that when he was first elected, the city manager told him, "Be careful what you ask of the staff. They believe so much in the city and role of the council they will do their damndest to

get it done in high quality and finish as quickly as possible."

Kamena said he has found that to be true. "All of the departments do their damndest to take each request as if it were of personal interest to them. "I salute them."

The mayor talked about what has happened over the past year. The projects include completing the Downtown Plaza, the cinema, and buildings in the Golden Triangle. The city has received \$1.2 million to build a pedestrian connection between the transit station and Livermore Village.

"The city has managed to handle the transition very nicely from where we were to where we are going." This fall the new performing arts theater, with its beautiful, ethereal design, will open. It will host 212 performances a year.

Livermore Village is getting close to obtaining its entitlements.

On July 9th, the council will

consider the El Charro Specific Plan. It includes Prime Outlet. Kamena stated that there is a magnificent structure for the shopping center. Stores to be included include Nieman Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue, Gucci, Bombay Outlet, Nine West and Anthropologie, among others.

Historic preservation moves forward, including the railroad depot. It will be moved. Possible uses include a working museum or a place to buy tickets.

Kamena was proud of the fiscal health of the city. He noted that one excellent indicator was the rating of AA given recently to the city by Standard and Poor.

Kamena mentioned working with neighboring cities to attain the goals that impact all of them. Such partnerships are important. He anticipated that with the new management at the lab, the city will be exploring new areas of service. One of those would have the fire department become the fire department for the Lab. "Other facilities at the Lab may be open to our agency, as well," said the mayor.

Enhancing the community includes approval of the cultural

arts master plan, the home rehabilitation program, and the opening of Heritage Estates. The senior housing includes 130 units, 55 are affordable to low income seniors, who pay a rent of \$942 a month.

"Open space preservation is at the top of the list of council priorities," he stated. "Library programs have been wonderful. Over 800 children each read more than 100 books last summer."

And, last but not least, the mayor listed an array of awards and recognitions given to Livermore.

The city was named the 31st best place to live in the United States by Money Magazine. The building division and planning Steve Keifer were named the "best," the first time one city has received both. An award of excellence was given to the city for its downtown streetscape. The finance department received the distinguished budget award and its 17th certificate of achievement in reporting. There was a national planning award for implementation of the South Livermore Plan from the American Planning Association.

## County Supervisors Approve \$2 Billion Budget

Alameda County's budget for the new fiscal year, which began July 1, was approved unanimously by the board of supervisors June 29. It totals \$2.26 billion, an increase of \$75.4 million, or 3.5 percent, over last year's document.

Except for a couple of minor tweaks, the budget was the same as the one proposed three weeks ago by county administrator Susan Muranishi. As she noted then, the county was able to balance the budget largely because of \$41 million in savings accrued during the past year.

Supervisor Scott Haggerty of Dublin said that the balanced budget was achieved because "all county department heads worked together with the board of supervisors, the budget workshop and other key stakeholders and the county administrator. Our agency and department heads must con-

tinue to control costs and increase their revenue-raising efforts."

However, some of the budget gap was closed with one-time funding, noted supervisor Keith Carson of Berkeley. That means the county "will continue to struggle to provide essential services for our residents." Further, the one-time money does not address the ongoing problem of revenue shortfalls "to pay for all of the services our constituents deserve," said Carson.

The budget will be able to support new initiatives toward such things as green building and waste reduction, youth education and health programs at the juvenile justice center, and the East Bay Regional Communication Project, which will create compatible communications throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties for emergency responses.

## POET

(continued from page one)

she was in third grade. She sent a poem into a newspaper that published a children's page. That thrill encouraged her to keep on writing.

Asked about favorite topics for her own poems, Meltzer said, "The family joke is that anything is fair game." One poem might be about going with her college-age daughter, Emily Raridan, to the laundromat on Sunday morning. Others might be about walking around North Beach in San Francisco, or watching a sunset, or hiking in Muir Woods.

What Meltzer likes in poetry is the ability to "break the rules. You can also create (poetry for) the structure. You have to be succinct in what you are doing, and pick the right word for the image."

Most of Meltzer's poems are within 20 to 50 lines. There haven't been any poems of epic length, though she does admire the long epic poem, "The Arcanes," by Jack Hirschman, who read recently in the Century House series.

Other poets whose work she enjoys are Collins, Kim Addonizio and Gary Snyder. Among the earlier poets, she likes Robert Frost and e.e. cummings. In the past few years, Meltzer decided to go beyond her own writing on a personal level, and become part of a writing community, which led her to applying for the laureate's position.

Being a librarian and poet lau-

reate weren't exactly what Meltzer had in mind years ago as a major in biology and public health. However, she started as a library volunteer in the Los Angeles school system when her daughter was young. When the family moved north, she worked at the Pleasanton library, and then switched to Alisal.

"I always loved libraries. I fell in love with it (the librarian's job)," said Meltzer. Her background in the sciences helps her with the research aspect of librarianship. "I love to dig up arcane poetry and poets," she said.

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# VALLEY ROUNDUP

## Deferred Fees

Developers of certain affordable housing projects in California would be able to defer payment of development fees under a bill by Assembly Member Alberto Torrico (D-Newark) that passed the Senate Local Government Committee 3-1 last week. The deferral enables developers to have more financing available for construction early in the development process.

AB 641 would require local governments to defer the payment of local fees until the developer has received a certificate of occupancy for any housing development in which at least 49 percent of the units are affordable to low and/or very low-income households.

A number of affordable housing advocate organizations throughout California support the bill. Among the organizations in support are the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, the Gray Panthers, the East Bay Community Law Center, the East Bay Asian Local Development Corp., the Western Center for Law and Poverty, Housing California, and the Affordable Housing Clearinghouse, among others.

## Economic Summit

Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) has announced plans to hold an economic summit in August. The summit will gather business, education, transportation, and economic development experts from across the Central Valley and the Bay Area to discuss spurring economic growth in San Joaquin County. McNerney will serve as the honorary chair of the event.

"I am committed to helping create jobs in San Joaquin, particularly in the area of new en-

ergy technology," said Rep. McNerney. "Convening this summit, with a wide variety of speakers and participants, will contribute productively to the dialogue and address ways of utilizing the region's resources to stimulate further economic development and bring new jobs and employment opportunities to the region."

The "2007 Economic Summit: Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Renewable Energy" will focus on expanding innovation and entrepreneurship in San Joaquin County to promote economic growth, particularly through the expanded use and production of new energy technologies. The summit is being organized by the Public Forum Institute.

- Specifically, the summit will:
- Explore ideas, including tax incentives and a reduction in regulatory burdens, for creating an environment that will empower entrepreneurs and small businesses to locate or expand business in San Joaquin;
  - Identify promising opportunities for further development of renewable energy businesses;
  - Discuss the establishment of 'smart growth' guidelines for urban planning and affordable housing; and
  - Examine the necessary steps to provide sufficient job training to local residents while making priority investments in science, math, engineering and technology education to create a pipeline for high tech and entrepreneurial jobs.
- The summit will include an opening address from Rep. McNerney, then a series of panel discussions on a variety of topics with local experts. It will be held on August 22, 2007, at the University of the Pacific in Stockton.

# Heavy Trucks Will Pay Impact Fee

The Livermore City Council recently approved a hike in garbage rates. The council also instituted a fee large trucks will pay to use city streets.

The actions took place at the June 25 council meeting.

The council approved a 13.6 percent increase in garbage rates for a 32-gallon cart, the one most used. That represents a \$1.78 per month increase, bringing the monthly bill to \$14.86.

The rate increase will cover such things as increases in fuel and labor costs, for example. It also helps to cover the cost of the impact fee charged by the city for large garbage trucks using city streets.

No one spoke against the rate increase.

The addition of a user fee for construction and garbage trucks was more controversial. The idea behind the fee was to help pay for shortfalls in paving maintenance. A fee study was conducted, which found \$985,000 in maintenance attributable to the large trucks.

The fee is 49 cents a square foot for all new construction.

Alex Berry of Centex Homes said he was concerned about the new fee and its impact on the price of new homes. Currently the city charges fees well over \$100,000 per home. "We feel there is no nexus here," he declared.

Speaking for the Chamber of

Commerce, John Mahoney asked the council to delay a decision on approval of a new fee. He noted that in the last two years, fees have gone up from 13 cents to 19 cents per square foot. The city is talking about a cultural arts fee. "There are only so many fees that can be applied given market conditions," said Mahoney. He asked the city to conduct an economic analysis to look at market conditions.

Director of the Northern California Homebuilders Association also spoke against the fee. Bob Glover stated, "The fee is clearly unlawful. It preempts the vehicle code."

Rick Simonson, the city's consultant, said that other city's have a similar fee. None has been challenged.

City Manager Linda Barton noted that lots of trucks use city streets on a regular basis. It is more fair for those who create the impact to finance the repairs, rather than taxpayers. Construction trucks and garbage trucks are those large enough to make an impact.

Councilmember Lorraine Dietrich pointed out that options available to municipalities are pretty constricted. "As a garbage service user, I will ultimately pay for the impact. It doesn't seem wholly unfair that those who ben-

efit pay. We need to keep the roads in respectable, usable condition."

Mahoney suggested that the city and chamber work together to look at fees. There is a point in time when all fees increase. It doesn't have to happen all at once.

Mayor Marshall Kamena was supportive of the idea.

Dietrich also suggested the chamber and city have a lot of shared goals. In addition to looking at fees, there may be an opportunity to look at how we prioritize and achieve those goals.

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# DAY SCHOOL

(continued from page one)

is also a private daycare and the park. Both are popular with mothers with small children. I really hope you reconsider before putting such a school next to my home."

Causey noted that he only heard about the proposed CDS when he ran into a parent from the Children's Center. He said he conducted an informal survey of 10 neighbors, and found nine in opposition to the CDS. He said the one person who didn't have a problem with it was Anne White, one of the trustees.

Trustee Bill Morrison expressed concern about several recent expulsions for what he called "Big C" offenses. These offenses relate to possessing a firearm or explosive, brandishing a knife, drug possession or use, and committing or threatening sexual assault.

"I am convinced the Board will end up putting C offenders in the CDS. If you put those types of kids in a group, a pack mentality will take over," he said. "I believe the CDS is a necessity, but there is also a limit."

Another issue concerns whether the new principal of the Vineyard/Adult Education program can adequately supervise the CDS if it were located at Almond.

"I'd hate for the Community Day School to take away from the success of the Vineyard program," said Beth Wichman, a Children's Center parent. "I assume the two full-time adminis-

trators at that site haven't been bored half the time."

Trustee Kate Runyon put forward a motion to place the CDS on the Mocho site for a one-year trial period. The District would review the types of students placed at the CDS during the trial and determine if the location were still appropriate. Runyon's motion failed to pass, with only Bill Dunlop voting in support and White, Morrison, and Tom McLaughlin voting against.

White then made a motion to place the CDS at the Almond site with appropriate security measures, including barriers and arrival drop off times. "I don't think we've come up with any alligators that are show stoppers for me," she said.

The motion failed for lack of a second. Miller then pointed

out that unless the trustees selected a site, it was unlikely they could open a CDS in the 2007/08 school year.

Runyon asked White to put forward her motion again and provided a second. "It is so important that we go ahead with this," said Runyon. "There is not anywhere that is going to be ideal."

The motion to place the CDS at Almond failed by a vote of 2-3, with Runyon and White voting in favor and Morrison, McLaughlin, and Dunlop opposed.

The trustees made plans to visit CDSs in Tracy and other parts of the Bay Area to gather more information. Miller said the District would solicit input from neighbors of both the Almond and Mocho sites.

## Potential Livermore Candidates Invited to Information Session

The filing period for the November 6 general election will open July 16.

In preparation for the City of Livermore general election, the city clerk will host a candidate informational meeting on Tues., July 10. It will be held at City Hall, 1052 South Livermore Ave. starting at 5:30 p.m.

The city will be electing two councilmembers and a mayor.

The meeting will provide information on the election, such

as the nomination process, conflict of interest and campaign reporting requirements, the city's election ordinance and campaign sign rules.

Persons interested in running for office, their campaign managers, treasurers, and other interested parties are invited to attend the informational meeting.

For additional information, call the city clerk, Alice Calvert, at 960-4200.

# BAN

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House committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Oberstar has included Tauscher's request in his earmark, which will be voted either up or down in a subcommittee that is dealing with the reauthorization bill for the FAA. The planes could still use airports that are not classified for general aviation. Most, if not all, of the small-plane airports near big population centers are general aviation airports.

The five-year period would provide pilots time to phase out their aircraft. The phase-out, already included in the Senate's version of the FAA bill, acknowledges that although aircraft noise has decreased substantially since 1990, communities "continue to face the disruptions caused by older, noisier, and less-efficient Stage 2 aircraft," said a press release from Tauscher's office.

Tauscher said in the release that "there is no reason for communities to be burdened by this type of noise pollution each time an aging plane takes off or lands," said Tauscher. "By phasing out these aircraft we will get to a point where people can finally hear themselves think."

The phase-out of Class 2 planes also is expected to ensure better fuel economy for the nation's private aircraft fleet, since the newer engines get better fuel mileage, said a spokesman for Tauscher.

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Photo - Doug Jorgensen

One of the scenes from San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

## SF Shakespeare's Midsummer Magic

By Susan Steinberg

A full moon and a full house (well, lawn) combined to welcome SF Shakes 2007 free production in the park last Saturday night.

The crowd applauded a very different work from last year's sober masterpiece "The Tempest": the ever-popular romantic comedy "Midsummer Night's Dream". Like "Tempest", it combines both mortals and fairy spirits who can influence human lives. And, as in last year's show, the actors perform dual roles in both worlds, adding a fascinating extra dimension to each.

Four mismatched young lovers and their marriage—of political-necessity rulers enter dream states in an enchanted forest. There a fanciful crew of fairies, their King Oberon, his queen Titania, and the famously mischievous sprite Puck change them all into wiser, more mature couples.

Interwoven with both worlds are the simple local workmen trying to rehearse their amateur play for the royal nuptials. Their earnest efforts provide some of the Bard's heartiest comedic scenes, in almost vaudeville style.

As always, SF Shakes actors' miraculously clear articulation made every word of the text easily accessible to listeners, including those unfamiliar with Elizabethan speech. Even youngsters obviously relished the realistic zest of the boyfriend/girlfriend dialogues, as well as their fights (verbal cattiness for the girls, and more testosterone-fueled physicality for the boys).

The broad burlesque humor of the rustic amateur players, with their ignorant misuse of words, was endearing as well as hysterical. In fact, the most outstanding cast member was veteran actor Gary Martinez as Bottom the Weaver, with his vigorous theatrics (both with and without his famous donkey's head). Hearing him emote provides a textbook example of excellent Shakespearean delivery—neither too declamatory nor too conversational, but bringing out all the best of his lines with nuance and good humor.

All ages of listeners picked up on his hysterical malapropisms: "We shall rehearse most obscenely" (obscurely), "flowers of odious (odorous) savors sweet", and "I see a voice".

In fact the entire play-within-a-play is a virtual parody of all Shakespeare scorned in lesser authors and actors, which he targeted in other works, such as Hamlet's speech to the players. So too are the lovers' hot protestations of undying love, changing instantly to utter loathing. He ridiculed such exaggerated bombast in Sonnet 130, ("My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun").

Every actor in this production is strongly dedicated to playing the comedy to the hilt without doing it grossly. It's a fine line between exaggeration for effect and witless burlesque, and all the players walk it deftly. Especially noteworthy are the long expository monologues by Oberon (Michael Storm), Titania (Emily Jordan), and Puck

(Rowan Brooks), which are carried off with unusually stylish ease. (Many productions cut or eliminate these beautiful lines just to speed the action.)

Maria Grazia Affinito as Helena does wonders with an overly-lengthy reminiscence of her childhood friendship with Hermia, now her romantic rival. The tedious repetition of images ("double cherry", "two lovely berries on one stem", etc.) is given just the right light touch of parody. Petite Summer Serafin as sweet little Hermia responds to her friend's accusations with surprisingly feisty spirit, achieving the realism of a girl's locker-room quarrel.

While the well-trained cast is nearly perfect, the production itself is problematic. Pieces of the set and many props seem inexplicably random, from odd pieces of metal bed-frames to a series of graduated silver moonballs and a not-very-functional large alarm clock carried by chief courtier Philostrate.

Costumes are even more wildly varied, from the rulers' long leather military coats, vaguely evocative of Cold War heavies, to their skin-tight shiny metallic forest outfits, like something from a futuristic intergalactic movie. Hermia's 50's-style yellow prom dress and Helena's more Carnaby Street mod togs, their boyfriends' streetcorner-casual t-shirts, and the peasants' anonymous black "nightclub band" attire may evoke "timelessness" to the director, but seemed a confusing hodgepodge to this viewer.

The insertion of off-beat recorded musical excerpts has become a newly-popular way of "jazzing up" Shakespeare. In last year's "Merchant of Venice" at Cal Shakes, Shylock lived in a dumpster full of money, serenaded by a recording of "If I Were a Rich Man". In this pro-

duction, similar musical excerpts bracketed many scenes, and even competed at one point with an actor's speech. Traditional-minded listeners were not amused, but younger ones obviously happy to hear popular music grafted onto a classical play, gave the show their rapt attention.

Kudos to SF Shakes for so successfully bridging the gap between page and stage, and appealing to the wide age span present. Special bravos to trouper Rowan Brooke (Puck), who played a very physically demanding role despite a back injury sustained during dress rehearsal. (His broad Cockney speech for Puck, while well-differentiated from the courtly Philostrate's English, is a bit difficult for American ears, and probably should be modified in future performances.)

All the rustic players are excellent—the best such group in memory—with their presentation of outrageous comedy in deadpan earnest. Lewis Sims, as leader Peter Quince, gives a wonderful true-to-text delivery of the Prologue, his errors of miss-spoken punctuation transforming this usual polite speech into a rude mess.

It's an evening of rollicking fun for the whole family during the next two weekends, with performances at Pleasanton's Amador (Aquatic) Community Park, Santa Rita and Black Avenues. Remaining shows are all at 7:30 PM, on Friday, July 6 th, Sunday, July 8 th, Saturday, July 14 th, and Sunday July 15 th. For more information, call 925-931-5340 or visit [www.sfshakes.org](http://www.sfshakes.org).

Come early, bring a picnic, a low beach chair, and a warm jacket. Admission is free, but like most happy attendees, you'll probably want to help fill this fine company's donation baskets.

## FEE

(continued from page one)

ated with the developers for fair-market housing. State law allows districts to seek voluntary contracts above the state caps.

Kernan noted that the city is under pressure from the state to create more units of affordable housing. However, affordable housing units have fewer square feet, and with the lower fee, it would contribute much less than the big single-family homes on which the district's projected facilities construction revenues are based. That situation would leave a cash shortfall. Because of the potential change in the housing stock, the district should consider meeting with developers, after the city's general plan is adopted, to re-negotiate the fee, said Kernan.

It's not clear whether state law would allow going above the cap on low-income housing fees. However, staff will research that point. If the low-income fee can't be raised, developers might agree to pay more overall, in a blending of fair-market and low-income fees at the negotiating table, said Kernan.

Kamena said that building enough units to meet the affordable housing goal might force the city to rise above its discussed housing cap of 27,700 units. The city is now out of compliance with (the state assigned) low-income housing goals, according to Kernan. "A couple of years ago, Folsom was shut down in mid-project, until the housing was addressed. So I felt all along that we may be forced to build additional housing beyond the cap," concluded Kernan.

Trustee Steve Brozosky, a former city council member, said that he would like to see the school district staff develop scenarios for a mixture that would include more small units, with two of them at a 29,000-unit cap, and the third at 27,700.

Brozosky said that developers, and therefore their customers, would pay twice. They have to pay fees to subsidize low-income housing, and, under Kernan's proposal, also have to pay more for schools, too. "Essentially you are calling for a moratorium on building," Brozosky told Kernan.

Kernan's response was, "I have no problem approaching developers on it." Even if the affordable housing fee could be raised to \$5 per square foot, "we are vulnerable, if the state comes down with increased housing numbers. The numbers could change dramatically. We get the kids, regardless of single family units, multi-family units, or whatever," he said.

Increasing the housing cap could also delay the ultimate build-out date for the city. Trustee Kris Weaver said that as it stands now, city manager Nelson Fialho has told the district, "We should feel comfortable using 27,700 units. It would take us to 2013 (for build-out)."

Kernan replied, "We should be proactive."

### OTT WANTS TO WEAN KIDS OFF CARS

Trustees also looked over an item related to growth, the priority lists for various high school facilities projects. The board has reviewed these during several meetings in the past few months.

Superintendent John Casey said that it looked as if some \$18 million worth of projects could be built. However, another \$37 million in proposals might not be attained without coming up with new means of financing.

The staff has shown the board a list with three levels of priorities at the various meetings, with little hope of building the third level with revenue sources currently available. Virtually all of the top priority tier would be covered by the \$18 million. The list is still subject to change.

Trustees said they will be e-

mailing some of their thoughts to Casey about what looks good to them for the top priority category. One item on the third-priority list, a \$110,000 bicycle rack and a secure enclosure at Amador Valley High School, was singled out during board discussion by trustees as being a high price. Amador Valley principal Bill Coupe said he could lower the cost by building it himself.

Board president Jim Ott said, "We should take one-half of the parking area and make it for bicycles, if we are going to start to make a difference in reducing our carbon footprint."

Trustee Kris Weaver said, "Good luck" on weaning the teen-age culture away from cars.

Ott, an avid cyclist, acknowledged that it's difficult to change teen-age lifestyle. "However, we need to show leadership in encouraging kids about alternative ways to get to school."