

City's work plan excludes projects vital to Pleasanton's future

The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce believes putting housing projects and private developments into the City's workplan is flawed, unwise and is inconsistent with our Pleasanton Vision 2025. Processing a privately funded project under the City's land use authority is much different than building a new fire station or completing a park project. Housing and private development projects pay for the cost of their applications to the City. City projects like park upgrades and new fire stations are paid for by the City's General Fund and therefore should be included in the City's Work Plan. Projects like the Stoneridge Shopping Mall, Costco and



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Merritt Housing project should be considered on their individual merits and their overall impacts to the City as they come forward to the Planning Department and City Council. Furthermore, with our State Legislators writing and approving hundreds of bills to take away our local control and new RHNA numbers coming soon, housing projects should be a priority for consideration not placed on another two-year moratorium as is the case for the Merritt project,

for example. Staying with the Merritt project, this project will improve Foothill Road and is consistent with the General Plan. How can decisions of "worthiness" and "priority" be given when the City is

not receiving all the appropriate information about a given project on the Work Plan? Furthermore, the City has an obligation under State Housing Statutes, and under its Housing Element, to process projects that provide affordable housing. The Merritt project is providing 15% inclusionary and it will address special needs with senior housing. Unfortunately, these important points are not being considered in developing the 2021-22 Work Plan.

This is my third Chamber as President/CEO and the first time I have seen a City prioritize private projects in this way. Projects of this nature should be processed as they come forward to the City. The City will still have the right to deny a project for legal reasons. Placing private project proposals on hold for several years before taking an in-depth look is not a prudent policy and should be changed.

Assistance League continues helping community

While some of the Assistance League of Amador Valley's programs have been put on hold with COVID-19 restrictions, others have continued. "In our time of such great need, it is vital to continue our work of helping those in need," said Barbara Campos, public relations chair for the Assistance League.



Mad Hatter's Tea are on hold due to COVID-19. They hope to resume both activities next year. "In the meantime, our can-do ladies are busy working to plan a virtual fundraiser this spring which will provide some much-needed revenue to continue our programs. Stay tuned for more information," said Campos.

Visit Assistance League of Amador Valley on Facebook or online at www.AssistanceLeague.org/amador-valley.

The donations of milk, eggs, flour, sugar and oil to the Food Pantry in Livermore on Junction Avenue are now weekly, thanks to contributions and grants. Currently, the pantry is serving more than 1,200 families each month. "The need is great, and our can-do workers are helping to fill a need," said Campos.

The Birthday Bag program this year has provided birthday bags to 22 children in local shelters. The bags contain age appropriate gifts and items to celebrate their birthday. In Livermore alone, the Assistance League helps children in three different shelters – one for homeless and two for victims of domestic abuse. Children in shelters may not have any other acknowledgment of their birthday and this is one way for these children to feel special during a very challenging time in their lives. Birthday bags let the children know we care.

As a nonprofit, the Assistance League relies on fundraising to support its programs. The annual Poinsettia Sale, Crab Feast and



Marti Vattuone is the chairman of the Birthday Bag committee.



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StopWaste is offering grants with total funding up to \$475,000 for projects that focus on preventing waste in Alameda County and supporting local communities in these categories:

• **Reuse & Repair:** Up to \$20K per grant for projects that prevent disposal or recycling in favor of repair, reuse, recovery and redistribution of goods and materials. For businesses and nonprofits.

• **Food Waste Prevention:** Up to \$20K for projects that prevent food waste through product or process redesign or recover and redistribute surplus edible food to feed people. For businesses and nonprofits.

• **Surplus Food Donation Equipment:** Up to \$10K for storage and transport equipment to

recover or donate surplus edible food that would otherwise go to waste. For nonprofits only.

• **Reusable Transport Packaging:** Up to \$10K for reusable equipment such as crates, bins and pallet wrap to replace limited-life packaging used in manufacturing, transportation and/or distribution. For businesses and nonprofits.

For details visit www.StopWaste.org/Grants. Apply by March 15: Grants to Prevent Waste.



An EBCE volunteer informs the community about their new energy options during the initial launch in 2018.

Energy

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standard option. Additionally, EBCE has a 100% carbon-free (Brilliant 100, sourced from solar, wind, and hydro-power) and a 100% renewable (Renewable 100, sourced from California wind and solar) option for customers looking for a cleaner mix. Please note, Pleasanton has selected Brilliant 100 as the default option for most residents and businesses. This means that customers in Pleasanton will automatically transition from PG&E's stan-

dard service to EBCE's Brilliant 100 service in April 2021 if they do not take action to select a different option. Brilliant 100 is the same price as PG&E's standard rate, resulting in no financial difference for the customer.

Take Action

Now that you are eligible for EBCE, additional services are available to you. EBCE customers can take advantage of EBCE offered programs, select from different power mixes, give direct input at our open, public meetings, and more. Find out more at www.ebce.org or call 1-833-699-3223.