

# PLEASANTON PROGRESS

NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF PLEASANTON, CALIFORNIA

SUMMER 2021



## Fire Station #3 Coming Soon!

THE  
POWER  
OF **COMMUNITY**

**2020** Annual Report  
Special Insert

PLEASANTON

Your voice matters.

**POLICING IN PLEASANTON • PAGE 3**

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family healthy and safe. It has been almost a year and a half since the City originally declared a local emergency, and I doubt many of us had envisioned that the impacts of COVID-19 would remain well into 2021.

Despite long days, uncomfortable circumstances, and at times an uncertain future which have accompanied the past 15 months, I have been inspired by the dedication, selflessness, and resilience I've witnessed throughout Pleasanton. We saw neighbors assisting those around them, residents donating supplies to shelters and non-profits, the City pivoting to provide continuity of services, and frontline workers who have been working tirelessly to ensure our healthcare systems remain stable and reliable. Now, with vaccines being widely adopted in our county and state, there is finally light at the end of the tunnel. I would like to take a moment to thank each of you for what you have done to weather this storm and help our community cope with this pandemic, as well as the Mayor and City Council who provided leadership, guidance, and flexibility through the constant

change that was the hallmark of the last year and a half.

As we recover and reopen from restrictions, I'm eager to bring our community back to its pre-pandemic normal. This begins with re-opening all City facilities to the public and resuming valuable programs and services that had been paused or modified to protect the health and wellness of our community and City employees.

This edition of the Pleasanton Progress newsletter highlights the City's work on the second generation of the Climate Action Plan, a closer look at the ways our police department and the Mayor and City Council are working to ensure Pleasanton remains safe and inclusive, and an update on the City's efforts to maintain Pleasanton's groundwater quality.

These certainly have been trying times, but together we are emerging from this crisis as a stronger and more prosperous community. Stay safe Pleasanton – I hope to see you all (in person) very soon.



**Nelson Fialho**  
CITY MANAGER

## A CLOSER LOOK AT POLICING IN PLEASANTON

In response to our nation's renewed attention to police reform last summer, the Mayor and City Council adopted an action plan in July 2020 to initiate discussion on community policing in Pleasanton which included listening to residents, reviewing existing policies and procedures, and considering policy goals associated with the City's future work plan and budget process. A key component of the action plan was a series of special community meetings, including a dedicated listening session for residents to offer feedback and visions for future policing in Pleasanton.

From these meetings came a review of the police department's use of force policies, including de-escalation strategies and the already-suspended use of the carotid hold, expanded implicit bias training policies, as well as review of alternative mental health response options which will be brought forward to the Council for consideration this fall.

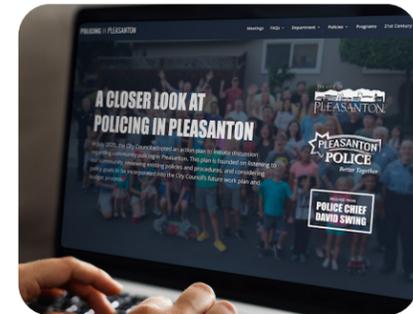
As well, the Council reviewed the implementation of the 2015 President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. The

report described six pillars, each of which include recommended actions for police departments across the nation to consider implementing depending on the needs of the community and its citizens. Key themes include building trust and legitimacy, policy and oversight, technology and social media, community policing and crime reduction, training and education, and officer wellness and safety. In 2016, our police department assessed its policies relative to the pillars and noted that many of the practices were already in place. Additionally, the department provided its 21st Century Policing: Status Update 2020 detailing the status of each recommendation and outlining next steps.

In its role as the oversight body for the police department, the Council also

approved the establishment of a Police Chief's Community Advisory Board to serve as a resource for the chief in furthering engagement and transparency, developing community policing concepts, and promoting matters of public safety. The advisory board application and selection process is being conducted this summer, with the first meeting planned for this fall.

These community meetings and policy changes by the police department and City Council are integral to the continued dialogue on policing in Pleasanton. For updates on how City leaders and the police department are working together to serve Pleasanton, visit the new dedicated webpage on policing in Pleasanton at: [policing.cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://policing.cityofpleasantonca.gov).



## The Housing Element: Pleasanton's Local Plan for Housing

Each local jurisdiction in California is required to prepare a General Plan, a policy document that guides the community's long range planning. Within the General Plan is a Housing Element that serves as the local plan for housing, containing policies and programs to address the housing needs of the community, including those who face the most significant housing challenges such as seniors, persons with disabilities, large families, and others. The City of Pleasanton has started the process to update the Housing Element of its General Plan. The 6th Cycle Housing Element, which will cover the eight-year period between 2023-2031, must be adopted by January 2023.

Through the Housing Element update, a city must demonstrate it has zoned an adequate number of sites for housing to meet its share of the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). RHNA represents the number of needed housing units in each community for households of

all income levels, over the planning period as determined by the California Department of Housing and Community Development and the regional Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). Approved by ABAG, the final RHNA methodology and draft allocations assigns Pleasanton a total of 5,965 housing units to be planned for; this is a significant increase from the prior eight-year cycle. The City has the opportunity to appeal the RHNA this summer and will do so to continue to advocate for a fair allocation of units.

While a city like Pleasanton is responsible for zoning adequate land to accommodate the number of units assigned, the City itself does not develop properties or construct projects. The Housing Element update will include a community-based process to provide input on Pleasanton's housing challenges and opportunities, and identify criteria and priorities for where new housing should be planned in Pleasanton. The

planning process will also focus on lessening the impacts of new housing on infrastructure and services as well as reviewing strategies and programs to meet Pleasanton's most critical housing needs, particularly affordable and workforce housing.

Recently in May, introductory meetings were held before the Housing Commission, Planning Commission and City Council to provide an overview of the Housing Element Update process, and the first community meeting was held in June.

The City encourages you to learn about the Housing Element update and provide your input on Pleasanton's housing challenges and opportunities at upcoming community, Planning Commission and City Council meetings. For more information on the Housing Element, community meetings, and to sign up for future Housing Element update notifications: [pleasantonhousingelement.com](http://pleasantonhousingelement.com)



Design drawing of new parking spaces and landscaping between Bernal Avenue and Abbie Street

### Additional Parking, Improvements Coming Soon to Downtown

The Downtown Transportation Corridor Parking Lot Project will yield 79 new additional parking spaces, a wide pedestrian and bicycle path, landscaping, lighting, and a decorative retaining wall. Additionally, the expansion project includes renovations to Centennial Tower Plaza while maintaining the commemorative bricks and adding new lighting and furnishings. Project completion is anticipated in Spring 2022.

## A PLAN FOR OUR FUTURE

### HOW THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2.0 IS BRINGING SUSTAINABILITY TO PLEASANTON

The City of Pleasanton's original Climate Action Plan (CAP) adopted in 2012 outlined a variety of local actions to help reduce our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, enhance environmental sustainability, and prepare for climate change. With the original Climate Action Plan's horizon year through 2020, the City Council identified as a priority in its 2019-2020 Work Plan the preparation of an updated CAP known as CAP 2.0.

Just as with the original, the CAP 2.0 will continue to focus on local actions to increase community resiliency, respond to the impacts of climate change, and meet current statewide GHG emissions reduction targets. While climate change is a global concern, actions taken at the local level can collectively have a meaningful impact.

The CAP 2.0 update will include evaluating the community's current conditions including reducing local GHG emissions, forecasting future emissions, identifying environmental adaptation goals, and establishing local GHG emission reduction targets, and will provide a roadmap for reducing community GHG emissions. The CAP 2.0 will include actions within these sectors of focus: buildings and energy, community resilience and wellbeing, materials and consumption, natural systems, transportation and land use, and water resources.

For CAP 2.0 project updates, resources such as videos and background information, upcoming community workshops and project engagement opportunities, visit: [cityofpleasantonca.gov/CAP](http://cityofpleasantonca.gov/CAP)

### HOUSING ELEMENT TIMELINE





## New All-Abilities Playground, Ken Mercer Skatepark Expansion Coming to Pleasanton

As part of Pleasanton's Parks and Recreation Master Plan, one of the priorities focuses on how to improve and increase accessibility in city parks and playgrounds for residents of all ages and abilities. Recent park renovations and updates include the city's first multi-generational swings at Hansen Park, and the renovation of the iconic slide at Mission Hills Park that included several new features to improve accessibility.

Last fall, the City approved the location for Pleasanton's first inclusive all-abilities playground at the Ken Mercer Sports Park. Public outreach for the design

process has begun and will continue through 2021. For more information regarding the all-abilities playground: [pleasantonallabilitiesplayground.com](http://pleasantonallabilitiesplayground.com).

Another park master plan priority – an expansion of the skatepark at the Ken Mercer Sports Park – has also started robust community outreach for the design process that has included public meetings and community survey for feedback from residents on features to be considered for the new skatepark. For more information on how to share input or about the skatepark project: [pleasantonskatepark.com](http://pleasantonskatepark.com).

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An aerial view of one of the planned site for an expanded skatepark and amenity area in Ken Mercer Sports Park.

# Pleasanton PFAS Update

In September 2020, the Mayor and City Council approved a long-term work plan to address remediation of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) present in the water supply at three City-owned and operated groundwater wells (Wells 5, 6, and 8) that make up approximately 20% of the City's water supply.

The work plan included establishment of the PFAS Treatment and Wells Rehabilitation Project, which has a goal of extending the useful life of the well facilities as safe, reliable, and locally controlled sources of water. Recently, in June 2021, the City completed a Draft Basis of Design Report (BODR) for the project that recommends constructing a centralized treatment facility located at the City's Operations Services Center to remediate PFAS using granular activated carbon (GAC) technology. In addition, the Draft BODR recommends replacing Well 5 with a new well facility located at Amador Valley Community Park (pending future well testing to determine adequacy of location). The

report also recommends rehabilitation of the existing Well 6 and 8 facilities including replacement of mechanical and electrical support systems and drilling a new well casing at the Well 6 site. The preliminary cost estimate of the project is \$46 million. The preliminary project schedule estimates some facilities coming online as early as 2024, around the same time the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) is expected to issue regulations for PFAS.

The Mayor and City Council approved finalizing the BODR and proceeding with the final design phase of the project, estimated to be \$2.8 million. A design update and financial plan for the overall project will be presented to City Council at a future meeting. For more information about Pleasanton's water quality including the latest 2020 Annual Water Quality Report and PFAS, please visit: [pfas.cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://pfas.cityofpleasantonca.gov)

## CITY COUNCIL TWO-YEAR WORK PLAN A ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE OF PLEASANTON

The Mayor and City Council approved its new two-year work plan for fiscal years 2021/22 and 2022/23. Every two years, the City Council reviews and adopts a work plan that serves as a framework of priority objectives that includes short-and long-term objectives, ranging from new initiatives to ongoing projects for which the City will focus allocation of resources for the next two fiscal years. Find the full FY2021/22 – FY2022/23 Work Plan at: [cityofpleasantonca.gov/workplan](http://cityofpleasantonca.gov/workplan)

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