

Rotary



Club of Livermore

State of the City - Marc Roberts, Livermore City Manager

By Kathy S. Coyle on Monday, April 19, 2021



Publishers Note: The Inner Wheel Road Rally was a lot of fun! They raise a nice chunk of changed. The rally had us find 12 historic sites in Livermore and was a reminder of our wonderful and colorful history.



Your Spur Reporter: Tim Barry
Youth In Government Without The Youth?!

Yes, this would have normally been our Youth In Government Day meeting with an array of local high school students and their City/LARPD/LVJUSD counterparts joining us for lunch. However, in a Pandemic year, no such gatherings are taking place, so we meet via Zoom and look back fondly to those meetings and look ahead to resuming them in due course. We did, however receive the accompanying City of Livermore update presentation from our fellow Rotarian and always entertaining City Manager Marc Roberts at this meeting!

Pre-meeting casual banter and good natured conversation took place, including a discussion of our local homeless folks and how good our local police officers are at contacting them and referring them to essential services that can help them pull themselves out of homelessness. When asked, fellow Rotarian and School Superintendent Kelly Bowers gave an update of some construction projects that included the new pool at Granada High, new gym and aquatics center at Livermore High, and new buildings at East Ave. Middle School and Joe Mitchel School. She said a silver lining to distance learning during the Pandemic is that construction is able to take place at a quicker pace, with some projects running six months ahead of schedule!

President Carolyn danged the dong or rang the bell or bonged the gavel at 12:30 pm and we were led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Monya Lane. With no Michael and Stu available for music this week, Alan Frank produced and presented a great video of the Livermore Amador Symphony performing ♦The Elephant♦ with only upright bass players (which include Alan!) while showing beautiful still pics of elephants in the wild. Well done Alan!

With no Thought for the Day, Carolyn introduced the front line meeting helpers:

- Zoom Host- Jeff Youngsman
- Zoom Chat Monitor- David Rounds
- Audio Visual- Alan Frank
- Sour Reporter- Tim Barry
- Spur Publisher- Kathy Coyle

Visiting Rotarians: Asst. Governor for Area 4 Jill Duerig from the Livermore Valley Club, Lori Souza also from the Livermore Valley Club.
Guests: Mayor Bob Woerner, Jean Otto, Jill Farrell (Wife of member Paul McCandless)

Walking Livermore- Carolyn continued on her quest to walk all the streets in town and showed a beautiful pic of her walking beneath the Olivina Gate sign at Wetmore Road and Arroyo Road.



Announcements

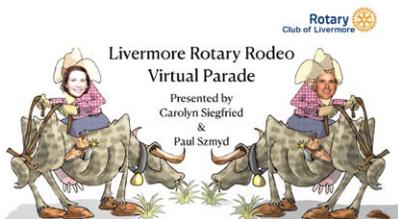


Lunch Money In Action- Carolyn showed a picture of when she presented an oversized check for \$9,300 representing our club's contributions to the Tri-Valley Non-profit Fund. Non-profits that will benefit: Open Heart Kitchen, Tri-Valley Haven, City Serve, Axis Health, and Service support of the Tri-Valley. Thanks to all!



Music Scholarship- Linda Tinney reported that the committee is scoring the submittals from the 50 students who applied and will present the winners at the Club's May 5th meeting.

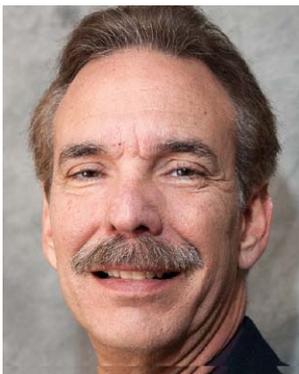
Virtual Rode



o Parade- Carolyn described an effort to put together a video representation, to be aired the second Saturday in June, of the annual Rodeo Parade due to the Pandemic cancellation of this year's Rodeo. More info on our website if you'd like to participate or sponsor.

Next Week's Program: Social Justice, by Stu Gary.

Program: City of Livermore Update by City Manager Marc Roberts.



Marc did his usual excellent, upbeat and humorous job of presenting a slide program depicting the joys, trials and tribulations of the city's journey during the past Pandemic year. He described what a busy year it was, with many City Council actions to address city services affected by Pandemic conditions and public health protocols. Since COVID-19 has proven to be bad for local businesses, the city has worked on several programs to assist businesses including allowing outside dining areas in parking spots, \$2 million in business assistance grants (to 267 recipients so far) and the e-gift card program that can be used at over 80 local businesses. This info and much more can be found on the city's website.

Marc showed us new changes around town including several new housing developments, all of them either apartments or condos/townhomes that fill in vacant properties in town and range from market rate to senior housing to moderate and low income housing. 8 new murals were painted around town for beautification and display of public art. The city is slowly filling in the pieces of the Iron Horse Trail, designed to build a trail from west to east along the railroad corridor through the middle of town. A new pedestrian bridge was built over

Murrietta beside the railroad tracks for this purpose. When downtown construction is completed, there will be 1,000 parking spaces in parking garages and 1,500 additional surface parking spaces. New businesses in the corporate sector include a 600,000 sq.ft. Amazon hub, new hotels and restaurants. He reported that more new restaurants opened than existing ones closed this past Pandemic year. Marc described the many downtown construction projects including Eden Housing, renovation of Livermorium Park, Stockman's Park, new parking structures and the Legacy mixed use project where the old Groth Brothers car dealership was located at L St. and First St.

Marc also went over some of the results of the latest Community Survey the city conducted, where the city got very high marks for safety and livability. All the results can be found on the city's website. Finally, the city council just hired a consultant, Place Works, to lead the General Plan Update process to conclude by 2025 when the last update has concluded. The last GP Update was done in 2004. This 20-year planning document will chart the course of the city in planning and policies with public input.

Marc fielded a couple of questions at the end of his presentation and we expressed our appreciation for his efforts and his excellent work as our City Manager. His slide program was very interesting. Informative, and injected with a little humor as is Marc's trademark. Well done Mr. Roberts!

Links and Advertisers

Check out our Flickr site for all of today's photos and more!

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/62794352@N07/albums/with/72157709710922731>

Today's video will be available on our web site: <https://livermore-rotary.org/2020-21>



Help Us With The Spur

Are you an aspiring reporter? If so, then please consider writing up our weekly newsletter from time to time. We are always looking for new writers, even though the regulars have a great time reporting them. Please contact Bob Jacobs @ bob@attorney-mediator.law

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Club Meeting

Livermore

Meets at We are meeting via Zoom for the foreseeable future.

Zoom

Livermore, CA 94551

Time: Wednesday at 12:00 PM