

**A Penny for Your Thoughts Community Workshop  
Game Board Services Explanations  
February 2012**

Managing How the Community Looks

*Graffiti removal* – Residents and business owners can report graffiti via the phone hotline or via electronic forms on the City’s website or its smart phone app. City Maintenance crews aim to remove the graffiti in no more than 48 hours.

*Green belt around city* – Open space around the city’s edges has been a Council and community priority in the past. Consequently, the City has open space preservation along its boundaries. The southern edge of town has miles of planted vines, and areas north of I-580 are undeveloped rolling hills.

*Neighborhood preservation enforcement* – City staff enforces laws and handles resident complaints about vacant buildings, abandoned cars, overgrown weeds, junk, illegal dumping and debris removal, and illegal signs.

*New development review* -- City staff review and approve construction plans for new housing and business projects based on the City’s General Plan, Development Code and other land use standards. Specific construction projects are also reviewed by the residents appointed to the advisory Planning Commission.

*Planning for new development* -- City staff plan the future to anticipate needs for various types of residential, retail or commercial sites and where best to situate them in the City’s boundaries.

*Public Art* – The Livermore community’s identity includes its dedication to the arts. Consequently, public art has been a priority, and numerous projects, such as the recent utility box paintings, have been fostered by the City’s Commission for the Arts which is comprised of nine appointed resident commissioners.

## Support for the Business Community

*Business Attraction AND Business Retention and Expansion Program* – Economic Development staff develops programs to attract, retain, and expand businesses in order to generate high-wage jobs and provide revenue to the City.

*I-GATE science and technology collaboration* – The Innovation for Green Advanced Transportation Excellence partnership links the City with other local municipalities like Dublin, Pleasanton, San Ramon, and Danville with the two local national labs, Lawrence Livermore National Lab and Sandia National Lab, the Chamber of Commerce, private businesses, and other municipalities and labs in order to bring business start-ups, new facilities, and university programs to the Tri-Valley area for economic vitality and growth.

*Job training programs* – Through partnerships with businesses and other government entities, the City provides cooperative educational opportunities and job training that is responsive to the changing needs of the workplace, both locally and regionally.

*Mass transit and freeway access* -- Employees with local jobs must have easy ways to get to work. City Engineering staff work on BART and other mass transit planning and implementation as well as roadway upgrades such as the new Isabel Interchange.

*Special events and cultural activities* – The City collaborates with local groups such as Livermore Downtown Inc. on special events like the spring Wine Festival that brings thousands of people to the downtown.

*Tourism/marketing* – The City collaborates with local groups on marketing the City and region predominantly in the areas of viticulture and wine-making, western culture and the rodeo, and cycling.

## Creating a Safe Community

*911 police, fire, and emergency medical response* – Police Patrol Officers and/or LPFD respond to emergency calls. The Livermore Pleasanton Fire Department (LPFD) respond to all emergency fire, medical, rescue and hazardous material incidents within seven minutes 90% of the time. LPFD paramedics provide quick assistance to ill or injured people, and LPFD firefighters aim to reduce property loss due to fires. As necessary, the SWAT Team or four-legged K-9 officers respond to emergencies.

*Emergency Preparedness* – LPFD participates in City-wide Emergency Preparedness planning and educates residents about emergency self-reliance.

*Fire Prevention programs* -- These activities include fire code enforcement, weed abatement, fire hazard elimination, fire alarm system review, building plan reviews, and hazardous material regulation.

*Gang Prevention AND Narcotics Investigations* – Specifically trained gang or narcotic officers focus their attention on these areas and work undercover with confidential informants.

*Parking and Traffic Enforcement* -- Traffic enforcement services reduce DUI occurrences. Child safety seat and seat belt programs protect car occupants from harm.

*Patrol & Investigations* -- Patrol officers respond to any type of service call including traffic accidents. Investigators handle crimes against persons or property, sexual assault, and identity theft.

*School Resource Officers/Crossing Guards* – Two School Resource Officers, one at each high school, handle all police activities at school campuses. Police School Support also provides crossing guards at twenty street intersections during the morning and afternoon.

## Creating a Sense of Community

*Childcare and Senior Services* -- High quality affordable child care is important for improving the lives of families and children. The inability to access consistent, low cost childcare is one of the greatest barriers to financial and social stability among families in Livermore.

The City's aging population increases demands for senior services such as in-home services, food programs, transportation, housing and affordable health care. The City works closely with local service organizations to identify gaps in services and to create and fund a variety of senior programs.

*Health services* – Access to affordable health services is vital because having access to affordable primary and preventive care decreases complications from chronic disease, increases immunization rates, keeps minor illnesses from becoming serious ones and reduces obesity and diabetes rates. Over 3000 Livermore residents presently access affordable healthcare services each month from our local nonprofit healthcare providers. The number of those in need has almost doubled in the last two years due to the downturn in the economy.

*Homeless services* – The increasing number of homeless individuals in Livermore is presently estimated to be between 200-300 people. The reason for homelessness varies with the family from lost employment, high medical costs or mental health issues. Providing homeless services often lowers the need for services in other City Departments such as Police, Fire and Public Works.

*Hunger prevention* – The City provides a small amount of funding to a variety of nonprofit food programs. These programs offer hot meals and bags of food to Livermore residents in need. Over 2000 persons receive food each month through free food programs offered by these nonprofits. The number of persons needing help has grown by over 50% over the last year and the nonprofit service providers are struggling to meet this need.

*Libraries* -- All services of the Library are free to anyone, and services support residents' educational and information needs. All three Library sites offer books, DVDs/videos, and magazines for both adults and youth in English and Spanish. Programming occurs for children, families, school-age youth teens, and adults such as the popular Summer Reading Game and the annual Livermore Reads Together. Free computers are available to all, and electronic resources can be accessed from home 24/7 too. The Civic Center Library operates a Job Center, provides free income tax preparation, handles passport applications, and sponsors literacy tutoring. The small *Springtown Branch* offers limited services to residents north of the 580 freeway. The small *Rincon Branch* provides services in the northwest section of town where many lower socio-economic, Spanish speaking residents reside. The Rincon Branch is the

only site offering an After School Homework Center staffed by volunteer tutors. E-books are available for use on electronic devices through the library web catalog.

*Municipal Golf courses* -- The City manages the Las Positas Golf Course using contract operators (the Springtown Golf Course is now fully leased to an independent private operator for a ten year lease.)

*Neighborhood meetings* – Past city outreach efforts of this type included “Coffee with a Cop”, neighborhood watch meetings, and sessions with neighborhoods regarding traffic flow and speed limits. New or expanded efforts for meetings could be developed.

*Social media and online information and communication* – The City unveiled its new website in March 2011 and its Facebook page soon afterwards. The Library and Economic Development Departments have numerous web and social media outlets. The City is exploring the expansion of social media tools to inform and engage more community members in ways that better meet their time and life demands.

## *Caring for the Backbone of the City*

*Building and safety code inspections* – City staff ensure new buildings are designed and constructed in a way that ensures structural, fire and sanitary safety, as well as energy efficiency and accessibility.

*City financial reserves*— The City has three types of general fund reserves: undesignated, reserves for operations, and economic uncertainty. Undesignated reserves are those dollars that are carried over from one budget year to another...like carrying over a checking account balance from one month to another. Reserves for operations are set aside for cash flow purposes in the event of emergency or catastrophic event. These dollars have remained at \$13.1 million dollars over the last five years. Economic uncertainty funds are set aside for one-time fluctuations in the economy. These reserve funds have decreased from \$7.4 million in 2009 to \$1.7 million in 2011.

*Facilities maintenance* – City Public Works staff and contractors maintain and operate the building systems at the City libraries, fire station, City Hall, and all other public buildings.

*Garbage/recycling* – The City oversees the solid waste and recycling franchise contract with Livermore Sanitation. The City has a goal of consistently diverting 75% of the waste stream from the landfill.

*Landscape maintenance* -- City Public Works crews mow, prune, trim and clean up public landscape areas along public streets, in street medians, at public buildings, and at city-owned mini-parks.

*Storm drains, sewer maintenance, and water treatment* – City Public Works crews operate and maintain the City's storm drains, the sewer connection and treatment systems, and the City's recycled water program. The City also operates a municipal water system that serves around 1/3 of the city in the northwest and eastern parts of Livermore.

*Street maintenance and repair* -- City Public Works crews provide day-to-day street repairs and leaf pick-up in the fall. They maintain street signs, street striping, and sound walls. Street cleaning crews provide monthly street sweeping.

*Traffic signal maintenance and repair* -- City Public Works crews replace and maintain and operate street lights and traffic signals.