



THE LUMINARY

Brisbane's Business and Community Journal

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MAYOR'S Message

THE RUMORS ARE TRUE

By: **MADISON DAVIS**, City of Brisbane Mayor, madisondavis@brisbaneca.org, 415-706-5276

It's true-City Hall is expanding. After 28 years in the same building, we need more space. There were only two computers (both were privately owned) back when city hall opened in 1995 at 50 Park Place. Now, we have computers around every corner, banker boxes full of records, and so many staff members that people are sharing offices.

While Brisbane is small, we still have the same business as a big city. We follow the same state and federal rules and regulations. Now we are at an extreme loss of space for the size of our staff and the amount of work we process. In addition, the Baylands and the proposed Quarry development will undoubtedly require us to hire

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



SUPERVISOR'S Message

THE COVID HEALTH EMERGENCY IS OVER

By: **DAVID J. CANEPA**, President of the San Mateo County Supervisors, dcanepa@smcgov.org, 650-363-4572

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors voted to end the county's state of emergency due to COVID-19 Feb. 28. It's been a long and exhausting three years and I'm glad the worse of the pandemic is behind us.

But keep in mind, COVID still lingers and the county remains committed to combatting the virus, educate the community on continued risks, vaccination recommendations and efforts to fully restore the economy.

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EV BATTERY SWAPPING COMPANY, AMPLE, TO INVEST MILLIONS IN BRISBANE MICRO-FACTORY

By: **TERESA MONTGOMERY**, Secretary of the Brisbane Chamber of Commerce Board, South San Francisco Scavenger Company



An Ample battery-swapping station, image courtesy of Ample

This article has been nearly a year in the making, but finally, the Chamber can share that Ample has received a \$15 million grant from the California Energy Commission to expand advanced battery manufacturing in Brisbane, California. The grant comes from a \$2.9 billion investment from the state to fund zero-emission transportation manufacturing projects to help meet aggressive goals for decarbonizing California's roadways.

Ample will match the state grant funding, for a total of \$30 million to support the expansion of a 30,000 sq/ft micro-factory in Brisbane. This automated manufacturing facility will allow the company to increase its production capacity of swappable battery modules. Ample expects to employ around 40 people at the facility.

Ample's factory is small, but it packs a big punch. Its compact footprint provides a sharp contrast with Tesla's massive gigafactories. Levi Tillemann, Ample's Vice President of Policy and International Outreach, describes the manufacturing line as a "wishbone" with "two lines that feed into a trunk line. Each line creates a different part of the battery module and the module is pieced together at the end." Ample will use this first automated manufacturing facility as a proof of concept. In the future, the company plans to replicate similarly structured sites in other cities.

Ample is a disruptor in the electric vehicle charging space. Touted as the "fastest way to a full charge," Ample uses modular battery swapping to charge an EV from 0-100% in 10 minutes, considerably faster than at-home charging or public DC fast chargers which take at least half an hour. They accomplish this at a price point that is 10-20% less than gas. Ample's stations are designed for fast, economical

deployment. They have designed the system so that Ample's swappable batteries can work in any vehicle equipped with an Ample adaptor plate. Carmakers don't need to change a thing.

The process works like this: Ample-enabled vehicles pull into a swapping station. The station recognizes which EV it is and can determine how much energy it needs. It automatically debits the customer's payment method on file, and robotics remove the existing battery and replace it with a fully charged one. Ample accomplishes this by using modular batteries. This means the company doesn't need to store unique batteries for different electric vehicles. Instead they stack smaller batteries -- kind of like putting a bunch of Lego pieces together.

While Brisbane isn't just home to Ample's manufacturing facility, the company has also developed a partnership with the city for two battery-swapping stations. Located at the former Bank of America site and the marina, the swapping stations will serve Uber and Lyft vehicles, who have rented an Ample-enabled car from Sally, a provider of electric vehicle rentals for rideshare, taxi, and last-mile. "Brisbane is an important partner for Ample," said Levi, "establishing these battery-swapping sites speaks to the city council's commitment to growing clean industries."

The commitment is so strong that during her term as mayor, council member Coleen Mackin, the city's representative on Peninsula Clean Energy, introduced Ample to PCE's executive director to discuss how the two might partner. PCE not only supplies renewable energy to the grid but is coordinating the installation of EV charging infrastructure throughout the county.

Ample will purchase 100% renewable energy from

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The Chamber Circle is a special group of members that have committed to support the Brisbane Chamber of Commerce through sponsorships. If your business would like to become a member of the Chamber's Circle, please contact Madison Davis, President/CEO at 415-467-7283 or e-mail madison@brisbanechamber.org.

Mayor's Message, continued from page 1

additional staff.

Thankfully, the new city hall annex is across the street at 25 Park Place. We have signed a 25-year lease and will undergo tenant improvements this summer. Soon the council will solicit construction bids from contractors. Occupancy of the building by staff is projected in late 2023-Q2 of 2024. The building will likely have solar and be LEED certified.

While we remodeled and added a second story to our city hall in 2008, the center of the building remained open to allow for more energy efficiency with natural airflow and light. The addition did not double our square footage.

Meanwhile, the city has continued to hire to keep up with commercial and residential applications and has even resorted to hiring contract planners because we don't have enough employees to manage the workload.

During the summer, the city receives some relief from interns, but they still don't have ample workspace. Challenges around space have resulted in moving people around or having some work from home.

The new city hall annex is around 10,000 sq ft. North County Fire Authority will occupy half of the building and will have a separate entrance, bathrooms, break room, etc. City Hall and North County Fire Authority will function like two buildings, even though they are under the same roof.

The other half of the building will have offices for the city manager, assistant city manager, city clerk, communications manager, digital media coordinator, management analyst, economic development director, HR manager and HR assistants, small offices for interns, and one for the council. It will also have its own break room/kitchen, room for HR files, a work room for supplies and printers/copiers, bathrooms, and a large and small conference room.

We secured most of the furniture for the new space for free, thanks to a Brisbane resident who works for Bregante & Company Certified Public Accountants. They were closing their San Francisco office and offered the city the opportunity to take their office furniture, which amounted to a value of around \$85,000.

While knowing which building to visit for your city hall-related business may take some adjusting, the proximity will ensure convenience for staff and residents. This new space will allow the city to better serve our residents by providing enough offices and the flexibility to hire additional staff when needed. If you have questions about the new city hall annex or any other City of Brisbane-related questions, email me at madisondavis@brisbaneca.org or call me at 415-706-5276.



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Deadline for Articles and Advertisements:

2nd Wednesday of each month

E-mail your article, advertisement or questions

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Advertisements are interactive on the Luminary

posted to the web and on social media.

Mission Statement: The purpose of the Brisbane Chamber of Commerce is to create an atmosphere in which business prospers and the community thrives.

The Luminary is printed using recycled paper and environmentally-friendly soy-based ink.

EV, continued from page 1

PCE and will work to provide storage for renewable energy, helping PCE reach its goal of supplying 100% renewable energy by 2025. Ample can store solar and wind power in its battery swapping stations. That energy can then be dispensed when needed. This process allows for the use of renewables throughout the day – even when the wind isn't blowing and the sun isn't shining.

Ample is working to develop an extensive network of fleet-swapping stations. They are starting with fleets because the predictability of the fleets duty

cycle allows the company to calibrate the system with a high degree of predictability. Eventually, they hope to open stations to private individuals who drive Ample-enabled vehicles. In the long term, they plan to work with carmakers to install Ample's battery-swapping system during the initial manufacturing process and sell them directly to both fleets and private individuals.

We are thrilled Ample has chosen to make Brisbane its home and look forward to watching them grow.

BRISBANE School District News

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

By: **RONAN COLLVER**, Brisbane School District Superintendent, rcollver@brisbanesd.org

The Brisbane School District has a long history of "being there" experiences as we strongly believe that a valuable part of our students' education rests outside of the traditional classroom setting.

One of the most popular and beneficial field trips is when all of our 5th grade students (and teachers and staff!) attend the Outdoor Education Program offered through the San Mateo County Office of Education. Students spend a week at Jones Gulch near La Honda and it is a highlight of the student's time in our district. Many of the memories and friendships last for years down the road and are often mentioned during high school graduation speeches.

During Outdoor Education, our students spend a week discovering forest and coastal ecosystems. Students work with a naturalist to study the land, sea, animals, trees, and their ecological relationship. The curriculum teaches ecological concepts and vocabulary as students are immersed in hands-on learning. Concepts that include photosynthesis, the relationship between the trees and soil, food chains, habitat, and the predator and prey relationships in that area. In an organic garden, students dig, plant, weed, harvest, and compost and learn about where our food comes from. One of the highlights is Beach Day! Students explore Pacific Beach marshes, tide pools, and Pebble Beach. Our 5th grade students also have a Project Based Learning unit attached to this experience so that learning continues in the classroom.

This unique opportunity also helps to develop self-esteem, self-sufficiency, and social responsibility. Students take care of themselves by making their beds, caring for their clothes, and keeping themselves clean. They work as part of a team by setting up meals, cleaning the dining hall, and creating their cabin skit performance. The opportunity for new friendships and the spirit of cooperation make the week at Jones Gulch a memorable social and educational experience. The learning and excitement shared with friends and

classmates is often mentioned by graduating high school students as a highlight of their school years. Thank you for helping the Outdoor Education staff and teachers make this the best possible experience for your child.

BRISBANE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

THE SIERRA POINT YACHT CLUB AND THE BRISBANE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INVITE YOU TO

JOIN US FOR A MIXER!

This event will be an indoor/outdoor mixer with sweeping views of the Marina. Attending a mixer is the perfect way to network with other business professionals and community leaders while enjoying light refreshments.

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TRASH TALK-3 FACTS TO HELP EVERYONE CORRECTLY SORT TRASH

By: TERESA MONTGOMERY, Chamber Board Member and Sustainability Manager at SSF Scavenger, and ADRIENNE ETHELTON, Sustainability Manager at City of Brisbane

- 1. Recyclables should be placed into your blue cart loose—not contained in a bag.** Plastic liner bags damage recycling equipment, increase processing time and costs, and can contaminate recyclable commodities like paper, cardboard, glass, and more. Your cart will stay tidy if you are careful to only put clean, dry paper and cardboard under the lighter colored lid of a residential cart (or inside a “Paper Only” bin), and scraped/empty containers such as bottles, cans, tubs, jugs, and trays under the darker lid (or inside a “Containers Only” bin).
- 2. Hangers belong in the garbage.** Though they may be made from a recyclable type of plastic or metal, their shape makes them difficult to sort and likely to cause equipment damage. Please place broken

and unwanted hangers in the garbage. Or, better yet, see if your favorite dry cleaner, thrift shop, or other retailer would like them.

- 3. It's important to sort your recyclables and place them in the correct side of your blue cart or in a “Paper Only” or “Containers Only” bin.** South San Francisco Scavenger's collection carts/bins, trucks, and sorting facility are engineered to maximize recycling. Costs and contamination increase significantly when materials are not properly sorted. For this reason, service delays, return trip fees, and additional charges can be applied to any cart/bin with poorly sorted contents.

Thank you for doing your best to sort smart. Your efforts matter and are appreciated! Got sorting questions? Please email them to info@ssfscavenger.com.

BRISBANE BUSINESS BULLETIN

“The Brisbane Business Bulletin” allows Brisbane Chamber of Commerce members to communicate brief bits of news to the public such as change of hours, new product offerings, upcoming events, etc. If you are interested in listing a news item next month, please contact Madison Davis at madison@brisbanechamber.org

Join us for our March Mixer Wednesday, March 15 at Sierra Point Yacht Club!

Join us on March 15 from 5pm-7pm at the Sierra Point Yacht Club, 500 Sierra Point Parkway in Brisbane for a mixer! This is an excellent opportunity to network with local business professionals and city officials while enjoying refreshments provided by our host.

Please RSVP by emailing madison@brisbanechamber.org

Brisbane Chamber of Commerce College Scholarships Now Available!

Each year, the Brisbane Chamber of Commerce awards scholarships to students. Eligible applicants are seniors in high school that live in Brisbane or are a dependent of an employee of the City of Brisbane or a dependent of an employee of a Chamber member business in good standing. Applicants must submit their completed application by 5:00 p.m. on April 14, 2023

The Brisbane Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Committee matches award criteria to the information that you will provide in the application. In evaluating and selecting students that will be awarded grants, the committee will consider the following areas: scholastic record, participation in extracurricular activities, financial need, letters of recommendation, and acceptance into an accredited institution.

To apply, visit brisbanechamber.org/scholarships

Come See a Dramatic Reading of the Book *Dark Days and a Black Dog* with proceeds benefitting BDW on April 16 at 4:30 PM at The Mission Blue Center

Tickets are \$10 and the proceeds benefit Brisbane Dance Workshop. Purchase tickets at brisbanedanceworkshop.org

Three celebrated Bay Area artists -- a writer/choreographer, a director and an actor -- have created a unique performance piece based on the book *Dark Days and a Black Dog*. Obie award winning actor Andrea Snow performs an intriguing, fully embodied “play/reading,” a new approach to bringing the written word to vivid life for an audience.

Dark Days and a Black Dog, both the book and the performance, is rooted in the experiences of a family over seven heartwrenching, darkly comic years that will, for many, feel both shocking and breathtakingly recognizable.

The piece is directed by Jael Weisman, also an Obie award winner, whose work with legendary companies and productions has spanned almost fifty years. The book is by Emily Keeler, a four-time recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts Individual Fellowship who was worked as a dancer, choreographer and writer in San Francisco and New York since the 70's.

Brisbane Liquor and Deli Now Under New Ownership

Stop into Julie's Brisbane Liquor and Deli and say “hi” to new owners Noreen and Jose who recently purchased the business from former owner, Julie Banks. We are excited to see what's in store for the business!

Now Accepting Volunteer of The Year Submissions

Do you know someone who has tirelessly given of their time for the betterment of the community? We want to hear about them! Please send

your submissions for the 2023 Volunteer of the Year and Youth Volunteer of the Year to Noreen Leek at nleek@brisbaneca.org. These special individuals will be announced at the 2023 Day in the Park event.

Vanessa Garcia of 7 Mile House Receives Women's History Month Proclamation

7 Mile House owner and author Vanessa Garcia was present at the last city council meeting to accept the Proclamation for Women's History Month, whose theme this year is “Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories”. Vanessa is the author of *See You At The 7 - Stories From the Bay Area's Last Original Mile House*, which is filled with historic photos and interviews with locals recounting their experiences at 7 Mile House over the years.

Peninsula Restaurant Week is May 19-27

Peninsula Restaurant Week is happening again this year from May 19-21, and is sure to be an awesome 9 days for restaurants up and down the Peninsula (from Brisbane to Sunnyvale) that will be offering specials during PRW. If you'd like to get involved with PRW as a participating restaurant, please sign up for a webinar they're hosting on March 16th at 10am. Register at brisbaneca.org/webinar-PRW

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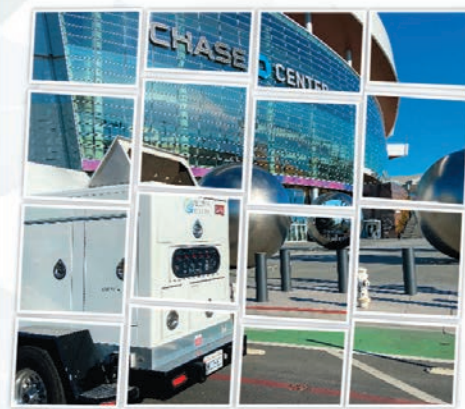
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Supervisor's Message, continued from page 1

We owe it to the 749 people who have died in the county from COVID to remain vigilant and I'm proud to say that more than 730,000 county residents, 94 percent of the population, have been vaccinated against the virus.

Anyone 12 and older who has symptoms and tests positive for COVID-19 should ask a doctor about treatment as medications to treat COVID-19 are free, widely available, and effective for stopping COVID-19 illness from getting serious. To learn more, go to: <https://covid19.ca.gov/treatment/>.

In other news, in light of the mass shooting of farmworkers in Half Moon Bay in January that put a spotlight on the many of these workers poor living conditions, the county is seeking \$5 million in state funds to help local farmworkers become homeowners.

The money would fund the purchase of manufactured homes, potentially in partnership with the city of Half Moon Bay if the state awards the county through the Joe Serna grant program.

These homes would be located on an as-yet unidentified area of the coast. Local farmworkers – including families and individuals displaced by the January mass shooting – would be eligible to live in and purchase the homes, according to the county communications office.

BRISBANE BAYLANDS UPDATE

By: CLAY HOLSTINE, City Manager of the City of Brisbane, clayholstine@brisbaneca.org

The draft Baylands Specific Plan prepared by property owner Baylands Development Inc. (BDI) has been submitted to the City of Brisbane and may be viewed at brisbaneca.org/baylands. Hard copies of the draft specific plan are available for review at City Hall and Brisbane Library. Note: this plan is the applicant's proposal. The community will have the opportunity to weigh in on the plan and related Environmental Impact Report (EIR) through a public review process as outlined below. At the conclusion of this public process, the City has final authority over the project, including the ability to approve, modify, or deny the draft specific plan.

The City is currently in the process of preparing an EIR addressing the potential environmental impacts of the proposed specific plan. In 2020, the City published an EIR Notice of Preparation (NOP) and held a public EIR scoping meeting. A revised NOP based upon the draft specific plan will be published later this spring, and another scoping meeting will be held during the NOP comment period. Additional public notice will be provided when the revised NOP is published and the accompanying scoping meeting is scheduled.

Next steps following the revised NOP release and scoping meeting are as follows:

- City consultant completes preparation of the draft EIR
- Draft EIR is published and released for public review and comment. The public is encouraged to comment on the draft specific plan at that time as well.
- City consultant prepares written responses to all comments received on the draft EIR
- Final EIR (including all responses to comments and any changes to the draft EIR resulting from these comments) is published.
- Final EIR and Specific Plan are subject to formal public hearings before the Planning Commission and City Council

THE BAYLANDS SPECIFIC PLAN RELEASED AND DESIGNED TO BE GOLD STANDARD IN SUSTAINABILITY

By: Stephanie Shakofsky | Vice President Government Affairs, Baylands Development, Inc., sshakofsky@thebaylands.com

We have exciting news to share! We are kicking off the environmental review process for The Baylands with the releases of the Draft Specific Plan. This Plan is the direct result of a comprehensive planning process in which the community's input, aspirations, and visions have been the leading elements and will guide the reimagining of the former industrial property.

In 2019, following on the heels of the Brisbane voter approved Measure JJ, Baylands Development Inc., Home for All, and the City of Brisbane sponsored a series of community workshops where Brisbane citizens expressed their opinions and aspirations on the issues of environmental cleanup, open space connections, preservation and restoration of Icehouse Hill, transit, traffic impact, and many more. The workshops also yielded valuable neighborhood input and direction, which is now the foundation of the Specific Plan.

The Plan envisions the site as a vital component for the future growth of Brisbane and the region. The Baylands development will contribute to the community's economic, social, and environmental well-being and re-establishes a connection and stewardship for the natural environment. By dedicating a minimum of 25% of the site to open space, the Plan provides a variety of natural amenities and trails that serve The Baylands community and benefits all Brisbane residents.

For more information about the Specific Plan, please visit the City of Brisbane's website at <https://bit.ly/BAY2345>. You can also learn more about our development plans and sign up for project updates at www.thebaylands.com.

BRISBANE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SCHOLARSHIPS

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Visitation Creek Looking West

BLAST FROM BRISBANE'S PAST

The following article is from *The Brisbane Bee-Democrat*, published May 8, 1975

Lagoon Recreation Plans Pushed by PB and R

The Brisbane Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission has formulated a plan that would turn the lagoon into a complete water-oriented recreation area.

Jane Kirby, director of the Park and Recreation Department, emphasized that the plan, which would allow for boating, hiking, picnicking, fishing, bicycling, and bird watching, is only tentative and subject to further revision by the PB&R Commission and the approval of the city council.

"Our objective is a passive recreation area," Mrs. Kirby said in an informational letter to Chairman of the County Park and Recreation Commission Polly Sandkulla.

If the PB&R Commission's plan is approved, rowboats and small sailboats will be able to be rented at the lagoon and a fishing pier will be built, Mrs. Kirby said in the letter. Picnic tables and possibly barbecues will be provided.

The biggest obstacle between the plan and bringing it to fruition is private ownership of some of the land, a need for access and money, Mrs. Kirby said.

Southern Pacific Railroad owns much of the land around the lagoon and would have to grant an easement if it has to be put to public use, she said. Railroad tracks run along the side of the lagoon and present a hazard as does the Bayshore Freeway on the other side.

Those areas would have to be fenced at an estimated cost of \$75,000, Mrs. Kirby said in the letter. Money will also be needed to fence culverts that run under the freeway through which bay water rushes in and out of the lagoon with the tide.

The plan also calls for the construction of an island in the lagoon,

composed of rocks and silt dredged from the bottom. The contours of the shoreline may also be increased and portions along the water's edge may be filled.

Mrs. Kirby said increasing the contours would improve "visual interest" and the fill would increase the slope, thereby decreasing the land exposed as the tide recedes.

Parking areas, with landscaping to shield them from public view are also called for in the plan. The southern end of the lagoon will be preserved for the migratory birds that congregate there.

The lagoon will have a bicycle path on two sides which will tie into the proposed County bikeways master plan at Bayshore Blvd., if the plan is implemented. Two separate restroom facilities would be provided.

Mrs. Kirby said that, though there is a dirt road between the lagoon and Bayshore Freeway, a new road along the north end is needed to improve access.

The Crocker Hills development presents a threat to the plan and the lagoon itself, Mrs. Kirby said. If silt deposits, the result of the cutting off land for the development are left uncontrolled, all or part of the lagoon could be filled in.

"The problem must be dealt with if that development is indeed carried forward," Mrs. Kirby said in the letter to Mrs. Sandkulla.

Brisbane has little money to spend on lagoon development, Mrs. Kirby said in the letter. She asked Mrs. Sandkulla for suggestions on where funding can be obtained.

It is hoped that the Brisbane PB&R Commission and the County Park and Recreation Commission can cooperate to solve the problems stalling development of the lagoon, she said in the letter. "Recreation areas are badly needed in this part of the county and there is non proposed which would provide the kind of facility we hope to offer—water-related and at a little or no cost to the participant."

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