

NEWS BRIEFS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fremont's New Center for Older Adults Calls for Community Input on New Name

The City of Fremont is building a new center to support the growing number of older adults in our community. The new complex, which broke ground on June 7, 2019, will be completed in 2021 and located at the new Mission Falls development in South Fremont.

The City is seeking the community's input on naming the new center. A new topic has been added to Fremont Open City Hall, where Fremont residents can vote for their favorite name. The topic is open from September 23 through October 14 at www.Fremont.gov/OpenCityHallAgeFriendlyCenter.

Community members who prefer to turn in their selection by paper can drop off their selected name from the list to the front desk at either of the following locations:

- Fremont Senior Center, 40086 Paseo Padre Pkwy.
- Fremont City Hall, 3300 Capitol Ave., Building A

For more information on the Age-Friendly Center, please visit www.Fremont.gov/AgeFriendlyCenter



Notice of Construction – Paseo Padre Parkway Overcrossing

Caltrans will repair a dip in the roadway on westbound Paseo Padre Pkwy. at the I-880 crossing. Construction work is scheduled to begin on October 1, 2019 and continue for two weeks through October 14. No weekend work is planned, but some work is scheduled during the night to minimize traffic impacts.

The project will correct a dip in the roadway and replace the median and sidewalk that have been damaged by the dip. During the construction, drivers should anticipate the following closures:

- Daytime Lane Closure – one lane will be closed on Paseo Padre Pkwy. (westbound) between Blackstone Way and Siward Dr. Work will take place Monday through Friday between 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Nighttime Road Closure – westbound Paseo Padre Pkwy., between Blackstone Way and Siward Dr. will be closed between 9:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m. Traffic will be detoured to the eastbound lane.



Elevated noise levels (71dba) from equipment are expected during the nighttime work. For more information and the most up-to-date schedule regarding this project, please visit <http://www.fremont.gov/PaseoPadre880>.

Fremont Solar Energy Workshop and Solar Tour

Spend an upcoming Saturday learning all about installing solar for your home! The City of Fremont is hosting a free Fremont Solar Energy Workshop and Solar Tour on Saturday, October 5.

From 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., attend the Fremont Solar Energy Workshop at the Irvington Community Center, 41885 Blacow Road, to learn about the basics of solar technology, the benefits of going solar, and how to access discounts for solar installations and zero emission vehicles through the Bay Area SunShares Program (www.BayAreaSunShares.org).



After the workshop, attend the self-guided Fremont Solar Tour from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. to visit homes throughout Fremont that have installed solar. This is an opportunity to see solar systems up close and hear Fremont households talk about their experience and reasoning for going solar. Several homes will also be showcasing other sustainability features, including electric vehicles and drought-friendly landscaping.

By attending these events, you will learn how to save money on your home utility bills, cut your

gas costs, reduce your greenhouse gas footprint, and drive on clean energy! To learn more and register, visit www.Fremont.gov/SolarWorkshop.

These events are sponsored by the City of Fremont, the Business Council on Climate Change, and the Northern California Solar Energy Association with support from East Bay Community Energy.

Fremont Patrol Tesla in the News

The Fremont Police Department has been in the news recently for an incident involving the Department's electric police patrol vehicle (Tesla Model S). Fremont Police first deployed the Tesla in March of this year as a fully outfitted patrol vehicle. Over the first six months, the performance feedback and initial data collection has been very positive and the Department is in early discussions of expanding the program. During a pursuit on Friday, September 20, the battery charge began to run low, which has been the cause for recent attention.

On Friday afternoon, a patrol officer checked out the Tesla patrol vehicle at the start of his shift and noticed the battery was half-charged. A typical battery at full charge ranges from 220-240 miles and during an 11-hour patrol shift, Fremont patrol officers drive approximately 70-90 miles. While not policy, Fremont Police recommend officers begin their shift with at least a half tank of gas or in this case, a battery charge of 50%. On this date, the officer driving the Tesla noted approximately 50% of battery life when he began his shift. While the vehicle is routinely charged between shifts, on Friday the vehicle had just been returned from the City of Fremont's Corporation Yard. The vehicle is regularly returning at the end of every shift with 40-60%, if not more, of the battery charge remaining.

Nine hours into the officer's shift, at 11:05 p.m., he became involved in a vehicle pursuit that lasted a total of 8 minutes. The pursuit began in the Irvington District and traveled on Washington Blvd., before merging southbound onto I-680 towards San Jose. Within minutes, two additional Fremont patrol units were behind the Tesla and in the pursuit. Additionally, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) was notified and responding. As standard protocol, once CHP has sufficient units, they take over Fremont Police pursuits on the freeway.

The pursuit spanned approximately 10 miles and at times exceeded 110 mph. Regular updates regarding the speed, location, general traffic and roadway conditions were provided by the second officer in the pursuit. Just before the pursuit ended at 11:13 p.m., the officer driving the Tesla responsibly notified his cover units he was going to have to back out of the pursuit because his battery was running low. Just after they passed the Montague Expressway exit, the suspect drove on the left shoulder of the road to



pass a vehicle. At that time, the Fremont Police Sergeant monitoring the pursuit gave orders to terminate to ensure public safety. All three units deactivated their emergency equipment and returned to normal driving conditions. At that point, the Tesla was driven to a nearby charging station and the additional Fremont units returned to the City. CHP located the suspect's unoccupied vehicle in the area of I-680 and the Berryessa exit. At no time did the battery of the Tesla become a factor in our ability to pursue the suspect or perform our duties. This situation, while embarrassing, is no different from cases where a patrol car runs low (or even dry) of fuel.

In recent years police radio traffic has become readily accessible through phone applications and its common practice for news media and even community members to monitor and record. On Monday, September 23, a local journalist contacted our Department requesting additional details regarding the pursuit. The journalist subsequently wrote an article and released a portion of our radio traffic. Since that time, the Department has received numerous media inquiries regarding the vehicle's battery, and public interest in the original story propelled it into the national spotlight.

Over the last six months, data on range, performance, equipment, and other elements has been gathered by officers through its use as a patrol vehicle. During this time, Fremont Police has documented two police pursuits, where the vehicle met and exceeded expectations. The final results and data will ultimately help the Department determine if the EV technology meets current patrolling applications and cost effectiveness. The Department remains dedicated to the continued research into the benefits of using electric vehicles and the effects they have on the environment.

Captain Sean Washington stated, "So far, the vehicle is performing extremely well, and has exceeded our expectations. We are already in initial conversations about testing a second vehicle, likely an SUV model, and we look forward to providing our initial results in the near future."

For more information on Fremont Police Department's electric vehicle pilot program, visit www.FremontPolice.org/Tesla

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