



June 12, 2014 (Issue 137)

Avery Greene Honda's Grand Re-opening and Open House

Avery Greene is a third generation automobile businessman born and raised in Detroit and has auto-knowledge running through his blood. His grandfather, Clarence Avery, designed and built the first moving conveyor belt for Henry Ford that started mass production and he is honored in The Automotive Hall of Fame in Detroit. With his passion for the automobile industry continually rising, Avery went on to graduate with a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Business with the intent to work for General Motors.

After being told to "get ground floor experience working for a dealer," Avery moved on to work in various dealers in Indiana. When gas money proved to be an issue, he bought a used Volkswagen and parked it in front of the dealership, immediately drawing a buyer. After repeating the process several times, Avery received a letter from the Indiana Secretary of State stating he would have to get a dealer's license. Greene Motors, Inc. was born from this notice, his first used car business where he and his father sold Volkswagens in Michigan.

In 1973, Avery and his father sold the business, prompting Avery to move his family to California. He purchased Fairway Motors in Vallejo and began building a new dealership selling Oldsmobiles, GMC Trucks and the newly introduced Honda Civics.

As the economy worsened in 2008, the automobile business slowed to a crawl. Avery once again took over the management of Avery Greene Honda, using the principles instilled in him to be an effective leader. As the economy rebounded in 2012, car sales took off and Avery agreed to remodel the building to Honda's Generation III guidelines.



In order to accommodate the ever-growing inventory of new Honda Cars and used vehicles, **Avery Greene Honda** has upgraded to an all-new service facility and primary business and sales center. Construction on the new facility was completed at the end of January and celebrated its grand re-opening and ribbon cutting ceremony last week, where Avery shared his story with the guests in attendance.



The brand new showroom hosts a variety of 2014 Hondas in a comfortable, modern and easy-to-navigate fashion. The new building also includes a brand new **Service Department** and **Collision Center** with helpful and friendly service experts to work on most makes and models, covering everything from an oil change to detailed accent repairs.

This new state-of-the-art building is ready to better serve Avery Greene's customers. Because of his continual dedication to customer satisfaction and his quest for additional "ground floor experience," it does not look like Avery will go to work for "the factory" or retire any time soon.



Sonoma Boulevard Design Charrette

Utilizing an open design studio format, the Design Charrette is a collaborative design and planning workshop to provide input on what would make Sonoma Boulevard a great place to be in the future. The first of two, four-day Design Charrettes, held from June 24 through June 27, will provide property owners and stakeholders, and the community at-large with an opportunity to collaborate with a team of planners, architects and engineers in creating a new vision for Sonoma Boulevard.

The Charrette will be lead by planning and urban design firm Opticos Design Inc., and will focus on generating consensus on the key elements of the community's vision and expectations for Sonoma Boulevard. The Charrette will include public presentations of that day's work for community review, input and direction, and will focus on the future character and scale of development along Sonoma Boulevard between Redwood Street and Curtola Parkway.



The ideas and concepts generated from both Charrettes will help establish a long-term vision and framework for both public improvements and private development, ultimately forming the foundation for the Sonoma Boulevard Specific Plan. The Sonoma Boulevard Specific Plan

is part of **Propel Vallejo**, a three-year planning effort resulting in the Sonoma Boulevard Specific Plan, a General Plan Update and a comprehensive citywide Zoning Code Update.

The two four-day charrettes will focus on Vision and Framework (June 24 through June 27) and Form-Based Code Development (July 22 through July 25). If you would like to participate in the Design Charrette #1, see the schedule below. Registration is not necessary and community involvement is strongly encouraged.

Participate in Charrette #1:
Sonoma Boulevard Vision and Framework
Tuesday, June 24 through Friday, June 27
415 Virginia Street, Downtown Vallejo

- Informal Open Studio, Tuesday, June 24 through Thursday, June 26, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Opening Community Workshop, Tuesday, June 24, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Brown Bag Lunch Economic Development, Wednesday, June 25, 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Community Open House, Wednesday, June 25, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Closing Presentation, Friday, June 27, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

To learn more about the project, visit the Propel Vallejo project website propelvallejo.com or Contact **Mark Hoffheimer**, Senior Planner, at mhoffheimer@ci.vallejo.ca.us or 707-645-2610.

Benicia Road and Columbus Parkway Improvements

As part of the Waterstone Development, contractors are now working on several improvements near Benicia Road and Columbus Parkway. These improvements include creating a second storm water management pond (SWMP) on Benicia Road, adding sidewalks and widening portions of the road on both Benicia Road and Columbus Parkway. The project will also include moving several overhead power lines underground and installing a traffic signal intersection.



The SWMP is being built to accommodate the increased rainfall runoff caused by building the new homes. This holding area will tie into an existing 48-inch storm water drain. A maintenance road is also being built for easy access to the new water detention area as well as the existing one. The sidewalks and widened road will extend approximately 300 feet up Benicia Road from Columbus Parkway, and 500 feet north on Columbus Parkway. View the planning design scheme [here](#).

The project is expected to be completed at the end of August. In the meantime, both pedestrian and vehicular traffic can expect delays in both directions on Columbus Parkway. The **Engineering Division** can respond to questions at (707) 648-5251.

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SailBot 2014 International Sailing Regatta at Cal Maritime

The **California Maritime Academy** was chosen to host the SailBot 2014 competition, where teams from colleges and universities around the world compete in the International Sailing Regatta for racing robotic sailboats.

The goal is to create an unmanned sailboat that navigates through a variety of challenges with limited, if any, human control. These hand-made sailboats are programmed to think for themselves on how best to navigate on the water. Once in position, the radio link is turned off and the boat's computer takes over, using custom code written by students. Depending on weather conditions, the boats decide on their own when to change directions with complete autonomy.

The competition is open to the 1-meter, 2-meter SailBot Class, and an Open Class (which are boats up to 4 meters in length). The competition consists of multiple events and will span several days, with the winner being crowned on Saturday.

Students are able to use this friendly competition between schools to apply their engineering knowledge in a multi-disciplinary task that requires mechanical, electrical and software skills to deal with a highly variable environment. It's not just fun and games, however; the technology created could be refined to use on oceangoing ships in the future, a future that university and college students are shaping.

For a list of scheduled events, [click here](#).