

**THE GRAPEVINE**  
**“The Somewhat Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Livermore Valley”**  
**January 14, 2020**  
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**Month 8, Meeting 23 of our president—The AquaGirl**



**Why is this picture here? Absolutely no reason other than they live out the life of Mo Bandy’s Good Ol’ Boys**

Good ol' boys, we're all the same  
Ain't no way we'll ever change  
Mean no harm by the things we do  
Or the trouble that we get into  
Other than a wild hair once in a while  
We can't help it, it's just our style  
Good ol' boys is all we'll ever be

**10 Spot**

- Charles—still harvesting. Wished he could have helped Roy out. Looking for a job
- Roy-Thankful!
- Jill-Pay It Forward
- Rosemary-Granddaughter, a star at Mock Trial competition
- Eduardo—“I’m a grandpa”
- Fred Q-Thanks to Charles and to Comcast. Comcast?
- Jake-Seahawks lost! Vineyard Hotel
- Guest—I love Livermore

**Football Follies:** This could be the Year of the Female. Two females in the semi-finals: Jill and Philomena. They go against Bill (Titan Fan) and George. The rest of us experts exited on the Saints and Ravens.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Super Bowl pool circulating--\$20/square; \$250 per quarter. Proceeds to our Thanksgiving Program
- Dennis announced that the Livermore Rotarian Foundation has established a \$2000 scholarship in Bill Geyer’s name. This scholarship will be managed through the Pedrozzi Foundation.

- Beth has an interesting program starting in March at Las Positas College. She is working with veterans on improved ways to market themselves, and would like people to observe and perhaps help out. More to come.

## Key Upcoming Dates: Mark your calendar

- February 11-club Speech Contest
- February 12--Career Fair—Granada HS
- Feb 26 to Mar 1 – Rotary wheelchair trip to Monterrey, Mexico (<http://www.howardtours.net/2020-monterrey-mexico.html>)
  - May 3 - Bocce (Campo di Bocce)

## Upcoming Speakers

1/21—Nathan Brumley—Lifelong Learning at the Livermore Library (Philomena says that this is a talk we do not want to miss)



### PROGRAM: Marc Roberts, Livermore City Manager

Marc gave us a recap on the Livermore Downtown Revitalization Project. This started back in 2000 and has gone through different phases. The first part was to improve the downtown area and moving Highway 84 off First St. was a major accomplishment.

The public identified the following as major priorities as the project continued:

- Parking
- Community character and design
- Open space
- Traffic and circulation
- Hotel

This year there are two ballot measures to consider:

- March 3—a referendum (a referendum is a measure to protest a legislative act)
  - Yes vote affirms the council's action
  - No vote overturns the council's action



- November 3—Initiative (Initiative is a new law proposed by petitions)
  - My understanding that this has to do with zoning changes.

## Coaches Corner:

- Roy wanted to express his sincere “Thank You” for the support you have given him during this time.

**There is so much misinformation on social media. It is our responsibility not to pass any of this on, no matter how much it might fit into our political or social values. This month’s edition of The Rotarian offers these steps on how to stop fake news:**

1. **Gut Check:** did the headline or image you just saw make you feel a strong emotion? Misinformation is designed to do just that. Before sharing, click the link and check it out. If you are unsure about it, don’t share it or react to it.
2. **Fact-check:** What is the original source of the information? Are any familiar news outlets publishing this story or photograph? Does a reverse image search turn up different sources for a suspicious image? What do independent, nonpartisan fact-checking sites like Snopes, PolitiFact, or FactCheck.org have to say?
3. **Read Real News:** News institutions like those we revered in the Watergate era are still producing top-quality journalism. Subscribe to a variety of reputable publications and get your information direct from those sources—not through social media.

• If you listen to the news you learn that most politicians are skilled at not answering questions directly. They very seldom answer a “yes” or “no” question and often answer something totally unrelated to the question. There are classes taught by public relation firms to teach this art. I know because I have taken them. Professional coaches are subject to the same type questioning as their political counterparts. This is one reason I question the competence of Houston Texans coach Bill O’Brien. Go back to Sunday’s game against the KC Chiefs. The Texans had a 21-0 lead and had a 4<sup>th</sup> down and inches to go inside the Chief’s 20-yard line. O’Brien decided to go for it, but at the last moment called a time out. After the time out he sent out his field goal team and went ahead 24-0. Later the Chiefs scored 41 unanswered points and finally won 51-31. At his press conference after the game he was questioned on his reason for kicking the field goal instead of going for it on 4<sup>th</sup> down. His answer was, “I felt like I had a first down there and when I didn’t, I just felt like we didn’t have a great play there for the fourth down at that point and time.” WRONG. You don’t have a “great play” on fourth and inches?? Maybe if it was 4<sup>th</sup> and 20 you may not have a great play BUT.....Any answer is better than admitting you don’t have a great play in that situation.

• Are baseball people the dumbest people out there??? Rhetorical question. Case in point: The Houston Astros (another Houston story—must be the water). Their General Manager and Manager were just suspended for the year by Major League Baseball for cheating. (Subsequently they were fired by the owner). Story: In 2017 (the year they won the World Series) they are accused of using technology (hidden cameras etc.) to steal the catcher’s signs to the pitcher and relay that information to the batter. Interestingly their record was 8-1 at home during the playoffs and 3-4 on the road, and all their batting statistics were much higher at home. BUT...how do you ever think you could get away with this???? Players change teams all the time. Do you think maybe somebody who was on the Astros and was traded or moved to a competitor might say something like, “did you know that they cheat?” Well Mike Fiers of the A’s did such a thing. They deserve all the bad publicity that they are getting.

• South Carolina may be a red state, but last night LSU turned them into a purple one.

• I wish each United States Senator would sit down and read John F. Kennedy’s book, *Profiles In Courage*, before the Impeachment trial starts. Read closely the chapter on Edmund G. Ross.

**Today’s Final Thought:**      **“The only handicap we have in life is a bad attitude.” Dabo Swinney**

“When all is said and done; there is usually more said than done”

Kevin Drake