

Senior Housing Likely in Lafayette

By Cathy Tyson



Former site of Butler-Conti Dodge on Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Photo Cathy Tyson

Finding housing in Lafayette is difficult enough, but finding affordable senior housing is nearly impossible. Help is on the way, though it may take a while. The Senior Housing Task Force (SHTF) has been hard at work since early 2005 to remedy the situation. With a total of seven representatives, two City Council Members, two Planning Commissioners, three Senior Services Commissioners, a housing consultant to provide technical assistance and City Planning staff Niroop Srivatsa and Glenda Warmoth, the SHTF was on a mission.

Following discussions with a number of developers, the nonprofit Eden Housing, Inc. was selected. In business for 39 years, Eden Housing has partnered with the cities of Clayton, Martinez, Concord, Richmond and Hercules to “create a variety of high-quality affordable housing opportunities for lower income families, seniors, and people with disabilities,” according to their web-site.

It’s been difficult to find a site with the necessary zoning that is relatively close to downtown. After speaking with a number of possible landowners, a 1.35-acre parcel at the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Blackwood Lane was chosen, the former site of Butler-Conti Dodge.

“Eden Housing is still working to secure the property, but right now it looks promising,” said Glenda Warmoth, Assistant Planner.

Although the project is in the planning stages, tentatively approximately 50 independent living units, with parking in the rear, is on the table. Once the property has been purchased, plans will be formalized. Eden Housing’s architect, Rick Williams, of Van Meter Williams, Pollack is currently working on conceptual plans.



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