

Lamorinda Community

Calendar, Notes, News

Lafayette

Calendar

City Council 7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room
500 St Mary's Road
Monday, Feb 25

Downtown Strategy Advisory Committee
Wednesday, Feb 22 - 7pm
City Offices # 240, 3675 Mt Diablo Blvd.

Planning Comm. 7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room
500 St Mary's Road
Thursday, Feb 21

Design Review 7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room
500 St Mary's Road
Tuesday, Feb 26

Park, Trails, Rec. 7pm
Community Center
500 St Mary's Road
Wednesday, March 12

Emergency Prep. 9:15am
City Offices
3675 Mt, Diablo Blvd. Suite 265
Wednesday, March 12

Senior Services 3:30pm
Community Center, Alder Room
500 St Mary's Road
Thursday, Feb 28

check online:
Town of Lafayette:
<http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us>
• all meeting notes
• calendar updates
Chamber of Commerce:
<http://www.lafayettechamber.org>
• local businesses
• upcoming events

no Police Blotter this week

NEW LAFAYETTE LISTING!

561 Morecroft Road
5BD/4BA, 3583sf + 133sf bonus space
Views/Oaks/Lvl Yard on .37 Acres
Stunning Remodel Inside & Out
\$1,895,000

J. Rockcliff
DanaGreen

DANA Green
Discover the Pride of Lafayette

Community Workshop Once Again Wows Residents

By Cathy Tyson

Last week Wallace Roberts & Todd (WRT) held the second of three Lafayette Downtown Strategy Community Workshops. The United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall was full of concerned residents, many of whom had been to the first workshop, community movers and shakers, along with important City staffers and City Council Members.

An audience member commented, "I'm going to give them 15 minutes to get my attention." An hour and a half later he was still at the meeting.

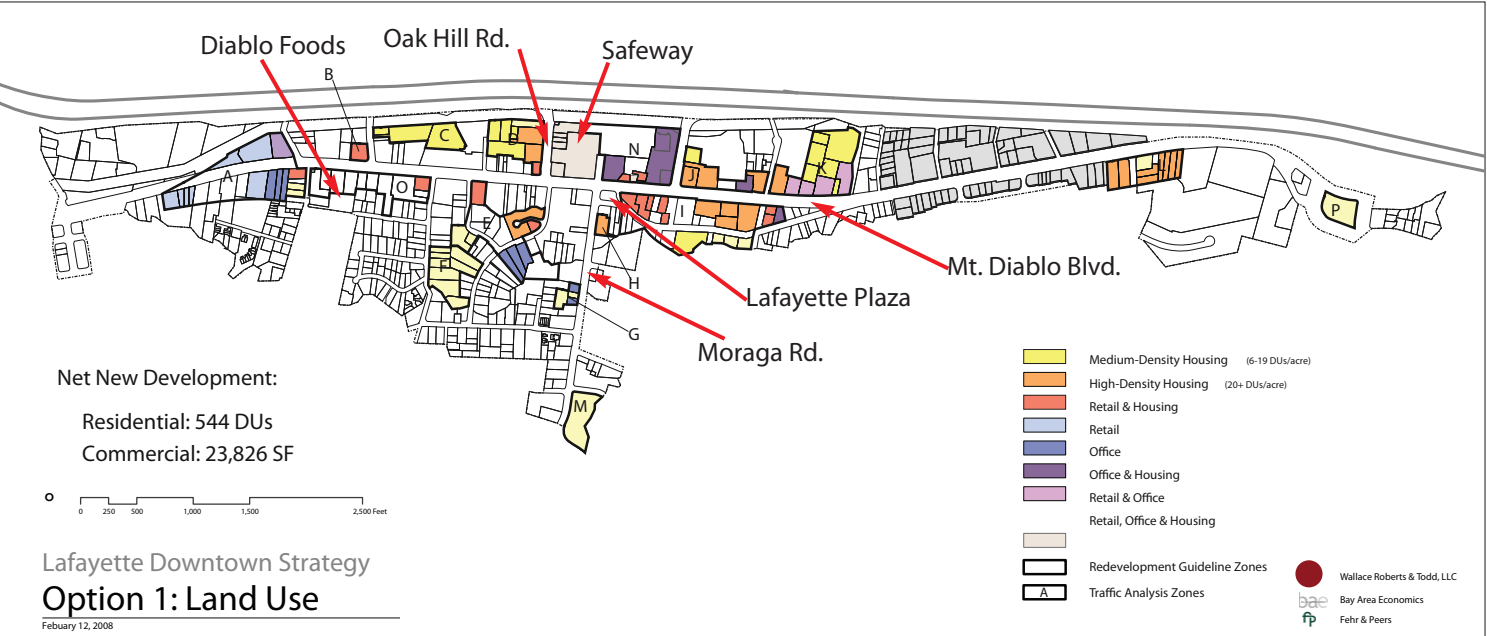
After being welcomed by Jim Stickley, a Principal of WRT, and hearing presentations from experts on transportation and parking, sustainability, and economics,

audience members were asked to rotate between five workstations where more detailed information was given and individual questions were answered.

Attendees were inundated with important information on

the nuts and bolts of the Plan and were asked their opinion on a three-page questionnaire. Stations included Transportation & Parking, Public Space, Market & Economics, Opportunity Sites, and finally Climate Protection.

... continued on page 17



Map shows Option 1 of 2 Land Use options presented at the Workshop. It is part of the "Community Workshop #2: Presentation Materials" which can be downloaded from the City website. You also can find related documents: <http://www.lovelafayette.com> scroll down to "The Strategie for Downtown Lafayette"

Road Rage at Budget Meeting

By Cathy Tyson



After the usual formalities at the recent Budget Workshop and Municipal Goal Setting meeting Steve Falk, City Manager and Tracy Robinson, Administrative Services Director gave very thorough presentations on Lafayette's current financial situation.

It was a surprise to no one that road conditions would dominate the meeting. Clearly none of the concerned residents that spoke up were happy with the state of asphalt in town.

Lafayette's revenue sources are limited, due to a lack of larger retail establishments contributing sales tax dollars to the general fund. Even though the City is run very efficiently, it provides the lowest per-capita police staffing in the County and has

an unfunded \$23 million road repair backlog. Yet, according to Falk, "Lafayette has been aggressive about seeking new sources of revenue to fund critical shortfalls. Notably the City has recently: doubled the parking meter rate, doubled the number of parking meters, hired a consultant to audit the City's impact fee structure and recommend ways to find new revenues and finally made fee-based recreation programs self-sufficient."

In addition there has been some discussion about instituting a business license tax on a sliding scale depending on the size of a business. For example, Safeway would pay more than Nitro Dog.

The city has made a concerted effort to educate the public about municipal finance, but

not everyone is on the same page. Mayor Anderson wanted to respond to what he described as the frustration level of citizen speakers at the meeting. "The City Council continuously is responding to the roads issue. I hope we can earn your confidence." For the record Anderson stated, "we are fully funded and at full capacity for 2008 road repair given the current staffing level."

Council Member Anduri said that the anticipated \$1.8 million dollar surplus this year will all go to road repair.

"I've been here for all four failed measures. We need to do a Finance Committee II," added Council Member Don Tatzin.

"Our top funding priority is to spend any extra money on the roads," said Council Member Carol Federighi. Responding to comments, she continued, "Camino Colorado is at the top of the list for repair."

Creating a budget for basically an \$11 million dollar per year business is no easy task. Goals are generally discussed in the early months of the year, then with input from the City Council, staff prepares a draft budget, which the Council reviews in the spring, and usually approves in June.

Green Business Initiative in Lafayette

By Sophie Braccini

Tony Eichers is not only the Vice President- General Manager of the Lafayette Park Hotel; he wants to become a "green" mentor for the Lafayette business community. And there's no better venue to do so than the newly formed Green Committee, spearheaded by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and Sustainable Lafayette, a local non-profit group.

"We started the group because we thought there would be an interest in the business community for "greener" practices," says Jay Lifson, Executive Director of the Chamber. He adds, "We were surprised and delighted by the interest that immediately sprung."

Steve Richards, one of the founders of Sustainable Lafayette agrees, "I was expecting people to show up out of curiosity. But I was surprised by the level of passion and energy people brought in."

The movement started when Sustainable Lafayette joined the Chamber last year and started discussions with Lifson.

... continued on page 17

Ware Designs
Fine Jewelry since 1977

- Custom Designed Jewelry
- Remodel Heirloom Jewelry
- Expert Repair
- Appraisals
- Pearls Restring

50% off Watch Battery
Now \$5, Reg \$10

Tues 12-5 Wed-Sat 10-5

"The Forge" 3416 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette
283-2988 www.waredesigns.com

1 watch battery per person. Exp. 3/15/08. Usually installed while you wait. W/ coupon. Restrictions apply.

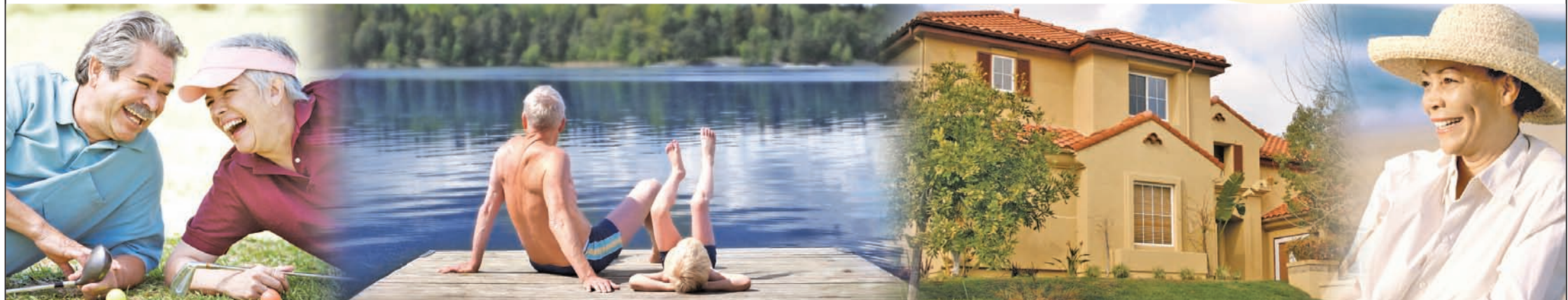
**Coming Soon to Lafayette...
The Candy Store of Your
Wildest Childhood Imagination!**

POWELL'S SWEET SHOPPE
EST. 2003

The New Mercantile Bldg.
3591 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
(925) 299-YUMM

ATTENTION: SENIORS AGE 64-85

RECEIVE UP TO \$1,000,000 of your HOME VALUE IN CASH*



ACCESS THE FUTURE GROWTH OF YOUR HOME NOW!

WHAT IS EQUITYKEY™?

The EquityKey™ program gives Seniors aged 64-85 the opportunity to receive debt free cash based on the value of their homes.

DON'T DO A REVERSE MORTGAGE UNTIL YOU CHECK THE BENEFITS OF EQUITYKEY™!

- No debt
- No closing costs
- No payments or interest
- No income requirement or credit check
- Property can go to your heirs



CALL NOW
1-888-887-5588

