

## Fair Offers Ways to Improve Your Commute

By Cathy Tyson

Recently the City of Lafayette along with 511 Contra Costa organized an event to help commuters. Due to the ever increasing price of gasoline, this event could not have been more timely. The aptly named “Lafayette Commuter Fair” was designed to give information to employees and employers about the many options available, and some substantial cost savings to use getting back and forth to work and school.

Gathered along the sidewalk of Mt. Diablo Boulevard in front of the Post Office were representatives of 511, the Spirit Van, the County Connection, and the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee with all kinds of commute information. Passers by were enlightened with tips on lowering commute costs, finding an alternative to driving, parking options, finding a carpool partner and more.

Who wouldn't like a \$60 gas card as an incentive to form or join a carpool to work, or a \$40 gas card to form a carpool to a college campus. Even

complimentary transit tickets are available for adults who currently drive alone to work or college and are willing to try transit. The guaranteed ride home program from 511 Contra Costa addresses one of the main reasons many people shy away from transit. In case of an emergency, there's a safety net in the form of a voucher for a rental car or a taxi home. Go to [www.511.contracosta.org](http://www.511.contracosta.org) or call Darlene Amaral, Lafayette's 511 Contra Costa representative, at (925) 973-2655 for more information on all of these programs. Brochures are available in the lobby area of the city offices at 3675 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, suite 210.

“We had a large number of people come, it was a good turnout. We were trying to target office workers and other downtown employees, and get the word out about commuter checks and other options,” said Leah Greenblatt, Transportation Planner.

