

Mt. Diablo Paving Project

By Cathy Tyson



Hard-working employees of St. Francis Electric, a subcontractor of Top Grade Construction Photo Cathy Tyson

It's déjà vu all over again. Drivers along Mt. Diablo Boulevard from Dolores Drive to First Street might be flashing back to the Moraga Way or EBMUD paving projects while stuck on Lafayette's main thoroughfare. Because of significant signs of wear and tear and having not been paved in over fifteen years, now is the time to get it done.

The first layer of pavement was placed last week. The last layer is tentatively scheduled for July 28 and 29; residents are strongly encouraged to avoid the project area on those two days. Remaining miscellaneous work is expected to be completed by the end of August.

Lafayette residents will be pleased to find out that city staff made the deal of the century with regard to funding this project. The

three-fifths of a mile long project will cost approximately \$865,000. More than half of the funds, \$540,000, came from a federal grant; \$240,000 came from regional mitigation money, that could only be used on arterial roads, and the balance, a mere \$85,000, was spent from gas tax revenue received from the State and is required as a matching contribution in order to obtain the federal grant.

Associate Engineer Matt Luttrupp noted that many people ask why the paving wasn't done at night, similar to Orinda's recent paving project. "There are quite a few large apartment buildings and many residential homes within 100 yards of Mount Diablo Boulevard and if the work was performed at night these individuals would not have been able to sleep for the last

week and half and this was deemed an unreasonable burden."

Updates are posted on the city of Lafayette's website, www.love-lafayette.org every Friday, under the Quick Links section, subhead Capital Improvements.

One lane will be open in each direction at all times during work hours of 8:30 to 4:30, but there will be delays. Detours will be well marked. Contractor Top Grade Construction and city staff asks drivers for cooperation and extra patience during the project, which they are hoping to complete while minimizing delays and inconvenience. Surely this won't be a problem for normally courteous Lamorinda motorists, who are quite familiar with the joys of road construction.