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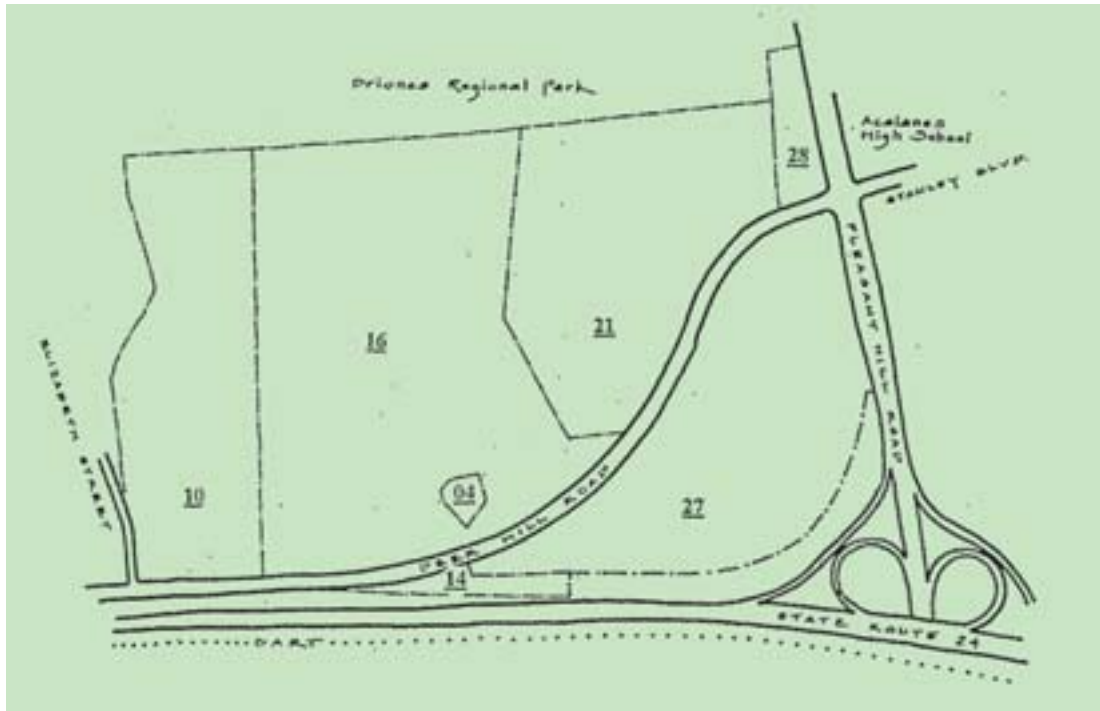
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## Final Answer on Christmas Tree Lot

Less is more, decides Council

By Cathy Tyson



After years of discussion and passionate community input, the City Council voted to change the zoning for the Christmas tree lot at the corner of Pleasant Hill Road and Deer Hill Road along with other parcels on Deer Hill Road.

Since the General Plan took effect, the contentious lot has been zoned to allow a maximum 35

dwelling units per acre. Readers may recall that back in February of this year the Council decided that changing the zoning to 17 dwelling units per acre, as recommended, was not an ideal solution and directed staff to keep looking for lower zoning options.

After much discussion, but very little fanfare, the controversial

Christmas Tree lot parcel was downzoned to a maximum of four homes at the April 26 City Council meeting. A handful of neighboring parcels were also rezoned to the classification "rural residential."

The 22-acre parcel is roughly triangular; bordered by Deer Hill Road, Pleasant Hill Road and Highway 24. The flat 2-acre section

## Farmers' Market Opens to Sunshine and Shoppers

By Cathy Tyson



Mayor Brandt Andersson cuts ceremonial ribbon at the grand opening of the Lafayette Farmers' Market.

Photo Keith Farley

The weather could not have been better for the first Farmers' Market of the year at Plaza Park. For the next twenty-one Thursdays from 4:00 p.m. to approximately 8:00 p.m. look for produce vendors, crafts, and music.

A steady stream of shoppers came to buy farm fresh produce, especially fantastic ripe strawberries, local honey, bread and treats like Curtis' Jammin' Kettle Korn and Lafayette resident Suzy Quenneville-Orpin's flavored sugars - perfect to top off a martini glass or cupcake.

"It is so wonderful to have our own farmers' market," said a delighted Rebecca Calahan Klein of Sustainable Lafayette, "During

opening night, many people came up to me and expressed their delight at being about to meet the farmers that grow their food, and to be able to buy beautiful fresh fruits, vegetables, meat, fish, and eggs for their families."

Although the produce is the star of the market, Sterling Albert Winery Cellar Master Will Rodgers had exceptional deals on local wine. Their Mt. Diablo Cabernet Sauvignon, featuring grapes from name-sake Mt. Diablo, sells for \$36 at Lunardi's - it's \$17 at the Farmers' Market. Look for similar values on their award winning Syrah and Sauvignon Blanc.

"Thursday nights at the farmers market is definitely the place to

be," enthused Klein. "With its incredible diversity of vendors, you can pick up everything you need for the week, as well as purchasing a great meal for a picnic in the park. With its wonderful music, beautiful setting and great people, the Lafayette Farmers' market is a great place to connect with friends and family and celebrate community," she concluded.

The Market would not have been possible without the unwavering support of residents and members of Sustainable Lafayette. Organizers hope to link the market to family night out, an opportunity to enjoy dinner at one of Lafayette's downtown restaurants, run errands, and catch up with neighbors.

## Expect Changes at Clocktower Building

... continued from page 2

"He's not challenging people," Douglass says, "He's playing dictator with people's lives and their businesses. It's a good time for me to be somewhere else. When presented with lemons, make lemonade! I'm very excited about setting up a new showroom across the street with all the latest products and materials the industry has to offer."

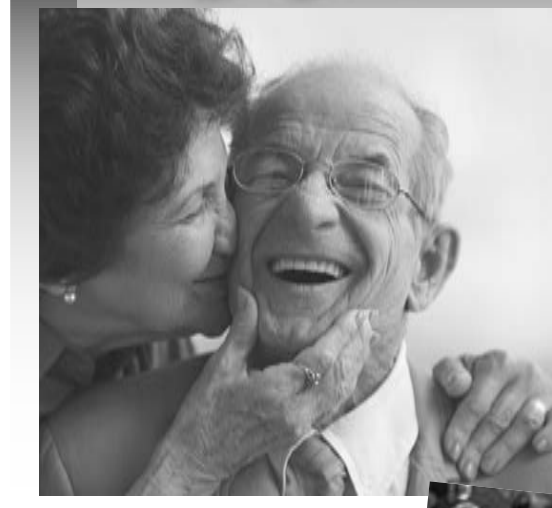
"I hope all the other tenants

have success finding new places so that they can go back to running their businesses as they see fit without the current worry and uncertainty. This is going to turn out to be a very positive change for me, and I hope it's the same for the others, too," added Douglass.

Because of ongoing negotiations some tenants were not willing to comment publicly.

Main Street's website reads, "Main Street's objective is to achieve maximum value for our clients by providing long-term solutions to retail projects through creative leasing strategies." A few clicks further on the site, shows an impressive collection of before and after photos and drawings illustrating tired strip malls that are now modern, contemporary shopping hubs.

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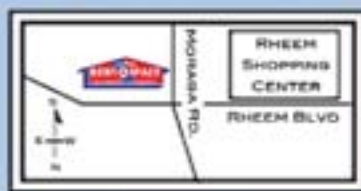
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