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## Green Cow Program Launched

By Cathy Tyson



Photo Doug Kohen

What is white and green and wears roller skates? Leola Moola, of course – the fiberglass cow that represents the first Green Cow Certified business in Lafayette. She was the center of attention at the recent launch party celebrating environmentally friendly Urban Suburban, though clearly her fame hadn't gone to her large head. Look for her to make appearances at other Green Cow Certified businesses as the program gains momentum.

She spends most of her time at Urban Suburban, a car repair company on Mt. Diablo Boulevard, and doesn't seem to mind her role as the poster girl of the program that identifies green businesses that give back to the community. Residents may have seen her, along with her wrangler Rene Aguirre, decked out in a pink tutu at the Reservoir Run or the Farmers' Market. Plans are in the works to post her out front of

the "charity of the month" and at local hotspots.

"Green Cow Certified is a rating system designed to inform the local community you care about the community you are in," said Krysten Laine. Qualifications include giving back through donations, participating in community events or fundraising, adopting green practices at work, and being located in Lafayette. Both Laine and husband Aguirre, President and Owner of Urban Suburban, believe in supporting the local economy and taking steps to live a less environmentally impactful lifestyle.

The Chamber of Commerce Green Committee, in partnership with Sustainable Lafayette, seeks to make residents aware of environmentally friendly businesses, products and services in Lafayette with their Green Shopping Guide. The Urban Suburban team wanted to take it one step further – adopting

green practices and giving back to the community.

Residents may have also seen a distant cousin of Leola, a large SUV with a similar two-tone paint job, green wheels and horns on the hood used to pick up and drop off customers. When asked how the heifer got her unique name, Aguirre replied, "She was named after my Grandma Leola, who grew up on a farm – pioneer stock. She would just laugh (at her namesake); she had a great sense of humor."



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## Downtown Bus Route Changes

By Cathy Tyson

Originally intended to connect riders coming or going from the Lafayette or Walnut Creek BART stations, County Connection bus route 25 changed its path recently to attract more riders.

This route has not been a huge success from the beginning, with the lowest number of riders in the entire County Connection system. Average weekday ridership was only 40 passengers – the equivalent of 3.6 passengers per hour – there was clearly room for improvement.

With a BART station on both


ends, Route 25 still travels up and down the Mt. Diablo corridor but it's been slightly changed to avoid the freeway. The new route follows Mt. Diablo to Pleasant Hill Road to Olympic – and now makes stops at Saranap and Rossmoor transfer stations, ending at Walnut Creek BART.

With fares of \$2.00 for adults and only \$1.00 for seniors, the newly adjusted route could be just the ticket for non-drivers. The first bus of the day leaves Lafayette BART at 7:30 in the morning and runs until 6:30 p.m.


# LEE AND GRANT

JAN. 30 - MAR. 20

HEARST ART GALLERY  
SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE  
OF CALIFORNIA



General Robert E Lee, June 1863, Richmond, Minnis and Cowell



Mathew Brady & Co, Grant at his headquarters, Cold Harbor, Virginia, June 1864; Library of Congress

**Opening Day Sun., Jan. 30**  
Soda Activity Center  
2 - 3 pm  
Lecture  
Carl Guarneri, Ph.D., Civil War author and professor  
Living History Displays  
11 - 2 & 3 - 4:30 pm  
National Civil War Association & California Horse Artillery Society  
Cannon, uniforms, weapons, frontline surgery & medical care, feeding the troops, and more.

**Re-enactment Day Sat., Mar. 19**  
times tba  
Intramural Sports Fields  
Demonstrations of military drills, skirmishes, cannon firing, sharpshooters, fife and drum band, frontline surgery and medical care, uniforms, horse-drawn wagons, and more.

This exhibition has been made possible through NEH on the Road, a special initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities. It is brought to you by Mid-America Arts Alliance. Lee and Grant was organized by the Virginia Historical Society.

Wed - Sun, 11 am - 4:30 pm | Exhibition Free to K-12 graders; adults \$4 | Opening day events Free to all  
925.631.4379 | www.hearstartgallery.org

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