

Lafayette Signs Up for Uniform Signs

By Cathy Tyson



Public Works Technician David Terhune and Associate Engineer Matt Luttrupp hold up the fruits of their labor. Photo Cathy Tyson

There's a new standard color and type font coming in the next few years for all of Lafayette's street signs. Responding to new regulations by the Federal Highway Administration that requires municipalities to install easier to read, and more reflective street signs by 2018, the City Council recently approved the new and improved design that uses upper and lower case letters; "Condit Road" seems a little friendlier and uses less space than "CONDIT ROAD." According to the Federal Highway Administration it can also save lives because of improved readability; fractions of a second spent looking away from the road, increase the odds of accidents.

Drivers, cyclists and walkers may not have noticed there's a variety of colors and designs on Lafayette's existing street signs - from the very old black lettering on white background with all capital letters to white on green and white on orange.

Public Works Technician David Terhune says the variety of fonts and colors contribute to a disconnected feeling. "This project fixes that by replacing every street name sign in the City - over 800 of them - with a new standard. This standard reflects the character and identity of Lafayette and, most importantly, invokes a cohesive sense of belonging. When you see these new signs on the corner, you'll know you're home."

Design-oriented volunteers got together on a number of occasions to decide on color, font and size options finally settling on easy-to-read white reflective letters at least four inches tall on a dark brown background in Rawlinson font. Implementation will be done in zones. Associate Engineer Matt Luttrupp and Public Works Technician David Terhune worked diligently to make the signs come to life. One zone will be retrofitted each year until 2016, starting in the downtown area.

Hammering Away on Plaza Way Parking Solution

By Cathy Tyson

The work of crafting a parking solution for the historical Plaza Way area continues. Interested parties and subcommittee members met again last week to provide feedback on the Plaza Way Overlay concept.

With independent property owners that may or may not share the City's vision, discussions have focused on alternative Plaza Way Overlay concepts or "Visions" that may be embraced over time. Participation is optional, but it's clear if all the property owners were on board, the most comprehensive solution could be realized - linking all of the rear parking areas, creating a consolidated lot with improved circulation and substantially more parking spaces.

"The City is investing money in a

parking lot, matching the funds made available by the Poy family and the Park Theater Group. The parking must be available for the public to use," said Niroop Srivatsa, Planning and Building Services Manager, at a recent meeting of the Plaza Way Subcommittee. She added, "The City is doing everything possible to reduce the burden of property owners on Plaza Way." The ultimate goal is bring more vitality to the area, which will bring more customers to all of the businesses.

"It's a win-win for property owners and the City," said Srivatsa - the City can help spur economic development and improve the parking situation, a serious challenge to Lafayette drivers for years.

... continued on page A8



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