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Chateau Lafayette Residents' Parking Dilemma Solved

By Cathy Tyson

With 66 apartments and only 22 parking spaces available on site for residents at Chateau Lafayette on Moraga Boulevard, the numbers just don't add up. Throw in two-thirds of the street spaces taken by all-day parkers who are headed to BART and employees of nearby businesses, it's easy to see why seniors are frustrated and called for permitted parking on their block.

New rules limiting parking to two hours, just on the block of Moraga Boulevard between Moraga Road and First Street, were adopted at the September 24 City Council meeting. The 2-hour limit will be enforced from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, excluding holidays –with exemptions for residents with permits on the 3500 Block of Moraga Boulevard. While parking is definitely difficult, just a short walk down the street is a fairly new free parking lot on Moraga Road to accommodate longer term parkers. New signage will soon be installed directing drivers to the lot as part of the "Citywide Guide Sign Replacement" project.

While the seniors requested per-

mit parking to discourage all-day parking, they weren't thrilled with the way the City originally proposed handing out parking permits – offering four permits, while there were approximately 10 Chateau residents who had cars but not parking spaces on the premises.

In a significant demonstration of solidarity, homeowners across the street from the Chateau signed a petition supporting the seniors, offering street spaces in front of their homes. Six permits were agreed upon at a recent Circulation Commission meeting after heartfelt testimony from seniors, many with mobility issues who struggle with packages. The permit concerns were especially vexing because virtually all of the nearby streets have parking time limits.

City Council members were sympathetic to the plight of seniors and reasoned that 30 years ago when the City approved the under-parked facility it must have presumed residents could use on-street parking for the overflow. By today's standards, Chateau Lafayette would be required to have 50 spaces on site.

... continued on page A10

Acalanes Coach Arrested

Lafayette police arrested 22-year-old Nicholas Kalustian of Martinez on Friday, October 5, for unlawful sexual conduct. Kalustian was the coach of the junior varsity girls' volleyball team at Acalanes High School until school officials placed him on administrative leave, barred him from returning to campus, and contacted police after being notified of an inappropriate relationship between

Kalustian and a female student.

Police investigators said the relationship had been going on for more than a year.

Kalustian was booked into county jail on one count of California Penal Code section 289(h). His bail is set at \$100,000. Anyone with any information about this case is asked to call Lafayette police at (925) 283-3680.

L.Borrowman

Senior Symposium this Saturday, October 13: Aging Successfully in Our Community

Organizers have worked hard to assemble an informative, one-stop shopping event addressing concerns of seniors, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. at the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette.

Seniors, family members and caregivers of the elderly are invited to the fourth annual Senior Symposium. This free event is sponsored by the Lafayette Community Foundation. Topics include estate planning, transportation, the Lamorinda Village concept, even updating your health care directive. Complimentary refreshments and lunch are included. Please call or e-mail to reserve your spot, (925) 357-0056 or seniors@lafayettecf.org. C.Tyson

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