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## Caldecott Fourth Bore Opens

By Cathy Dausman

The Caldecott Fourth Bore Tunnel is now open for business – Highway 24 westbound motorists are driving under the Berkeley Hills and through a 21st century model of transportation. “Welcome to Bore Four,” Caltrans District 4 Director Bijan Sartipi told a standing room only audience of nearly 200 workers and dignitaries last Friday, yards from the mouth of its west portal.

The overhead electric reader board behind the blue ceremonial ribbon echoed Sartipi’s greeting exactly, while motorists honked in apparent agreement before disappearing into bore three. Sartipi’s remarks concluded with an announcement that fire, life and safety systems tests were complete (see related story on page B1), allowing traffic to begin flowing through the new tunnel early Saturday morn-

ing. The project, Sartipi noted, was completed “on time and under budget” – a recurring comment from speakers that day.

The selection of honored guests showed the depth and breadth of project cooperation, both federally and locally. The four year construction project was enormous by many standards. ... continued on page A12

**Quote of the Week:**

“We try to teach our children to be very grateful for what they have.” Read A Story of Serendipity - page B2.

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## Standing Room Only for State of the City Meeting

By Cathy Tyson

Although mayor Mike Anderson kicked off his state of the city address discussing major concerns for Lafayette – fire department and emergency services, what to do about the old library, and traffic – the main focus of the evening, and the subject of much of the question and answer portion of the Lafayette Homeowners Council annual public meeting, was Plan Bay Area and Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) numbers. Anderson and vice mayor Don Tatzin gave an informative overview of what both items are and how the city is meeting mandated requirements.

At several points during the meeting it became clear that there is a distinction between what the city of Lafayette is responsible for and can be acted upon and other topics and mandates handed down by the state of California, which citizens sometimes blame on volunteer city leaders.

“The biggest issue we’ve got is emergency services,” said Anderson. He explained that there’s

a task force working on determining what is the best course of action for the city to be better served and a clear goal of “not subsidizing (other municipalities), so we get what we pay for.”

Traffic congestion is also a hot topic, since the city is constrained by its topography. With a year-to-date 23 percent increase in home values and a median price of over \$1.1 million, Anderson believes these figures demonstrate that people want to move to Lafayette. Currently the Circulation Commission is working on a detailed study of downtown congestion.

The mayor introduced Plan Bay Area by saying that what happens at the state level affects counties and cities in California. In this case, Senate Bill 375, the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008, “supports the State’s climate action goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through coordinated transportation and land use planning with the goal of more sustainable

communities,” according to the California Environmental Protection Agency Air Resources Board.

“It gets complicated,” said Anderson of the Sustainable Communities Strategy and meeting the mandate of RHNA numbers, basically a matrix of potential housing that allows development that could accommodate low-income residents should the land owner decide to do so. “We can’t not do this,” he explained; all California cities must be in compliance.

Using population projections that are part of baseline assumptions, municipalities are required to address the state mandate – for Lafayette that means accommodating Housing Element potential for growth in the downtown area. By doing so, the mayor explained, this allows for priority conservation areas, open space that should be set aside and not developed, leaving semi-rural areas like Happy Valley and Burton Valley.

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**Life in Lamorinda**

**B1-B12**

### A Plethora of Persimmons!

The Urban Farmers pick persimmons (page B5) and Susie Iventosch features a recipe for persimmon cheesecake - page B9.



**Sports**

**C1-C4**

### Cougars Sweep Championship

The Campolindo boys' and girls' water polo teams both win NCS titles; Marissa Harnett reports - page C1.



**Our Homes**

**D1-D8**

### Pest Control Without Poison

Sophie Braccini looks at alternatives to pesticides and rodenticides - page D1.

