

Published August 27th, 2014

Significant Uptick in Construction in Lafayette

By Cathy Tyson



View looking down on the Woodbury construction site. Photo Andy Scheck

new single-family homes, six multi-family projects, 293 "residence alteration" permits worth \$21 million, with 37 pool permits and 186 roof jobs. The final figures aren't in yet for 2014.

"It confirms what we already know: that Lafayette, with its green hills and great schools, is a fantastic place to live and work; that people take pride in their properties here; and that investing and reinvesting in properties here is a solid decision," said City Manager Steven Falk.

The Woodbury project is an example of a multi-family development being built by The New Home Company that will include 36 new luxury garden flats and 20 terrace condominiums, slated to open in mid-2015. The long delayed housing was originally proposed by Branagh Development in 2007, and was initially planned for 80 units; that number was later reduced to 65. Look for heavy equipment on the site located behind the Veterans Memorial Building, set back from Mt. Diablo Boulevard on the west end of town.

Are construction trucks the new civic mascot for Lafayette? It's possible given the amount of remodels, grading, electrical, plumbing and mechanical work that's been happening within the city limits, according to the Contra Costa County Building Inspection Division. Every project needs a permit, and the county keeps track of building activity for tax purposes.

The numbers tell the story: in 2012 roughly \$48.5 million worth of permits were issued, representing 15 single-family homes, one multi-family project, some commercial improvements, over 300 "residence alteration" permits that include additions and remodels totaling over \$19 million, 25 pool resurfacing and new jobs, 141 new roofs, and more.

Fast forward to 2013 and the total amount of work being done jumps to \$68 million - a 42 percent increase in one year. That translates to 21

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