

Senior Symposium this Saturday

Now in its seventh year, the Lafayette Community Foundation is once again presenting its Senior Symposium, "Aging by Design," a free event with lots of information for Lamorinda seniors, their families and caregivers. This year it has moved to the large gymnasium at Lafayette Elementary School, at 950 Moraga Road in Lafayette. The event is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 1 and will feature four distinguished speakers:

Dr. Martin Iyoya, the John Muir Health director of pharmacology, will be speaking on "Misadventures with Medications;"

Anne Ornelas, the new executive director of the Lamorinda Village,

will present an update on the new community-based aging in place program;

Matt Shriner, chair of the Lafayette Senior Services Commission, will talk about programming and events geared toward seniors available through the city of Lafayette;

And Dr. Patrick Arbore, the executive director of the San Francisco Institute on Aging, will discuss "Loneliness and Older Adults: the Hidden Risks."

To register, call (925) 284-8214. Those who call to register in advance can qualify for a special raffle prize. C. Tyson.

Proposed Saranap Project Now Slightly Smaller

By Cathy Tyson



Current development location



Proposed Saranap Village

Image courtesy Hall Equities Group

In response to community feedback and additional market research, developer Hall Equities Group has downsized their proposed mixed-use multi-building Saranap Village project, around the intersection of Boulevard Way and Saranap Avenue. Instead of the originally proposed 235 units of housing, spread out among three buildings, the developer recently unveiled a new scaled-back third generation of the project with 187 units, and also shrunk the amount of commercial leasable space by over half. In addition, excavation has been reduced by approximately 750 truck-loads from the original project, and buildings A and B are from seven feet to 20 feet shorter, reducing the overall mass of the project by approximately 25 percent.

Walnut Creek-based Hall Equities Group saw the area as underused, not reaching its full potential, featuring a hodgepodge of obsolete architecture, vacant lots and lack of commercial desirability near the Highway 680 and 24 interchange. The nondescript area along Boulevard Way adjacent to the southeastern Lafayette city limit in unincorporated Contra Costa County doesn't have a central focal point. Many of the residents in the established, mainly single-family homes surrounding the proposed project like it just the way it is now, and are concerned about the height and density of the project, along with potential traffic impacts.

The proposed Saranap Village project, first introduced in May 2013, is a cluster of three buildings – A, B, and C – centered around the intersection of Boulevard Way and Saranap Avenue. The 187 housing units will be a mix of apartments for rent and condominiums for purchase, along with street front infrastructure upgrades and retail amenities.

The developer is sensitive to neighborhood concerns, according to Erin Bell, director of Systems Management and Marketing, especially on the heels of the still under construction, massive Sufism Reoriented Sanctuary, just a few blocks down from the proposed site (see story page A2).

"We try to listen to all parties," said Alisa MacCormac, Hall Equities

director of community affairs. An open house is scheduled for early September with a scale model of the current third version of the project and staff to answer questions. The exact date will be posted on the project website (www.saranapvillage.com) with detailed drawings in the near future.

The newest changes not only reduce the overall number of units, along with the mix of unit types, but more studio units are included, and three-bedroom models have been substantially cut back. More open space has been incorporated between units and a completely reconfigured stacked garage will be adjacent to the grocery store, with free shopper parking on the ground level and secured resident parking above.

"While we appreciate the changes, it's still nowhere near what we want," said Saranap Homeowners Organization President Tim Lynch. He pointed out concerns with changing the County General Plan to fit the development, which may affect other future projects, environmental issues, traffic, and dangerous angled parking wreaking havoc with bicyclists and speeding cars.

Public infrastructure along the street frontage has been improved in all of the iterations to make the proposed development more pedestrian friendly, including lots of landscaping, sidewalks and benches, with a generous, traffic-calming roundabout at the intersection of Saranap Avenue and Boulevard Way. The developer is looking for a retail mix to serve the residents and neighbors, like an independent coffee shop, casual restaurant, and a small bank. Other changes include removing the fitness club, changing the arched sign in favor of a monument sign, and keeping the heritage oak in its current location, rather than moving it to the center of the roundabout.

There have been many public meetings on the matter, with more to follow. Contra Costa County Principal Planner Will Nelson said there was a recent zoning meeting, but the "real" hearings are not expected until early next year, as the overall review process continues.

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Experience counts. Some of my closed sales.

34 ARDILLA RD 46 SARAH LN 16 SARAH LN 28 SARAH LN 459 FERNWOOD DR 75 SANDERS RANCH 392 SPRINGFIELD 41 MERRILL 83 MARIE PL 132 WHITETHORNE 9 LISA LN 8 LOUISE CT** 1203 RIMER DR 1218 RIMER DR 1224 RIMER DR 1229 RIMER DR 1236 RIMER DR 1295 RIMER DR 133 SHUEY DR** 89 SHUEY DR 70 SHUEY DR 24 CARR DR 367 DEERFIELD DR 36 BUCKINGHAM 20 BUCKINGHAM 39 BUCKINGHAM 1798 ST ANDREWS** 160 SELBORNE DR 1124 SANDERS DR 1099 SANDERS DR 1076 SANDERS DR 24 FREITAS DR* 3 WANDEL DR 4 WANDEL DR 149 WALFORD DR 108 WALFORD DR 4 SPARROW CT 11 KETELSEN 8 PIMENTEL CT 258 LAKEFIELD PL 133 WESTCHESTER 15 BRECK CT** 830 AUGUSTA DR** 1012 LARCH AVE** 1164 LARCH AVE 1160 LARCH AVE 1027 LARCH AVE 1024 LARCH AVE 1148 LARCH AVE 1204 LARCH AVE 1056 LARCH AVE	1090 LARCH AVE* 1235 LARCH AVE 6 LARCH LN 1843 JOSEPH DR 9 FLUETI DR 679 MORAGA RD 656 MORAGA RD 433 MORAGA WAY* 139 PASEO DEL RIO 1426 DE LA CRUZ 107 NATALIE DR 257 SANDRINGHAM 238 SANDRINGHAM 235 SANDRINGHAM 1072 COUNTRY CLUB 1080 COUNTRY CLUB 401 BIRCHWOOD 354 BIRCHWOOD 398 BIRCHWOOD 268 BIRCHWOOD** 1855 LAMPLIGHT 279 THARP DR 160 VIA JOAQUIN 15 DONALD DR 2220 LOCK LN 1924 ASCOT** 1939 ASCOT 1977 ASCOT #5 1977 ASCOT #6 2055 ASCOT #107 2075 ASCOT #121 2079 ASCOT #140 2067 ASCOT #242* 1958 ASCOT 144 ASCOT #2 2063 ASCOT 2135 ASCOT #11 2135 ASCOT #28 2135 ASCOT #17 2135 ASCOT #20** 2135 ASCOT #27* 2135 ASCOT #26** 2135 ASCOT #24 2087 ASCOT #224 2087 ASCOT #124 2079 ASCOT #135* 2024 ASCOT 2083 ASCOT #133 2091 ASCOT #127 2145 DONALD #9 96 MIRAMONTE DR	156 MIRAMONTE DR 201 MIRAMONTE DR 16 JOSEFA PL 430 N CIVIC DR #403 1025 ALTA MESA DR 1161 ALTA MESA 2740 N MAIN ST 1018 RIVER ROCK LN** 1613 GEARY RD 1301 GOLDENRAIN 1976 FOX RIDGE CT 94 G ELDER** 1409 CAMINO PERAL 1403 CAMINO PERAL 1418 CAMINO PERAL 1405 CAMINO PERAL 1437 CAMINO PERAL 1416 CAMINO PERAL** 1475 CAMINO PERAL 1515 A CAMINO PERAL 407 WOODMINSTER 422 BUSTOS 120 VIA JOAQUIN 1775 PANDA WAY 236 VALLEY GLEN* 180 VALLEY GLEN 205 VISTA GLEN PL 950 OAK VISTA 565 PALO ALTO PL 2020 DATE ST 5521 LIKENS AVE 133 BARTMOUTH PL 11770 PACIFIC COAST HWY 19511 ALANA RD** 7 EL CAMINO FL 20 JUNIPER WAY 20 ROSS DR* 30 ROSS DR* 3 WOODFORD DR 10 WOODFORD DR 19021 SCHUESTER 3628 BICKERSTAFF 67 LA CRESTA 115 FIRESTONE DR 304 SAGE CT 895 STONEGATE CIR 31 COLORADO 3 CREEKWOOD CT 540 LAURA ANN CT 210 CARMEL** 51 CAMINO ENCINAS	529 OAKSHIRE PL 201 TUMBLEWEED 650 SKY HY CT 6 TANGLEWOOD LN 42 LA ENCINAL 1729 RELIEZ VALLEY 221 TICE VALLEY** 6373 ARMS LAKE RD 1348 NAVELLIER 407 LAVA CT 52 SHASTA CT 0 GRUND LN (LOT) 1715 139TH ST 5180 CAMINO ALTA 2277 STAR AVE 4416 PAMPAS CIR 2971 CONSUELO RD 4255 WILSON LN 955 ROSEHEDGE CT 2 AGHALEE LN* 1018 RIVER ROCK** 1919 YGNACIO VLY** 309 CORTE GABRIEL 200 RIO GRANDE CT 324 HOLIDAY HILLS 21 BROOKWOOD RD 1602 RANCHO VIEW 3545 BOYER CIRCLE 938 MOHR LN 3569 BADDING RD* 35 BAYLOR LN 1092 MAYWOOD LN 325 BEACON RIDGE 3 ROBERTS CT 78 SLEEPY HOLLOW 1891 APOLLO CT 1043 CAMINO PABLO 295 CALLE LA MESA 428 ZINFANDEL CIR 1522 RISHELL DR 358 EL TOYONAL 8 SAGER CT 15804 CAMBRIDGE* 480 MISSION BAY #533 3044 SHETLAND DR 1080 CEDARWOOD 2268 PEPPER DR 386 ODIN
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*Represented both buyer and seller **Sold twice ***Sold 3 times or had 3 different transactions on property



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