

## Parking relief for Safeway shoppers at last



Photo Pippa Fisher

The end is in sight for construction to provide 185 parking stalls on the vacant lot near Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Oak Hill Road in front of the Lafayette Safeway. According to Safeway

spokesperson Wendy Gutshall from the Northern California corporate headquarters, the company anticipates finishing the parking lot expansion sometime in March, weather permitting. – P. Fisher

## Lafayette's police station officially opens

By Pippa Fisher



Photos provided



If residents noticed SWAT vehicles on the streets of Lafayette recently, fear not – the scary-looking vehicles were probably on their way to the grand opening of Lafayette's new, state-of-the-art police station.

The new police headquarters next to Boswell's on Mt. Diablo Boulevard was officially declared open after a ribbon cutting ceremony Feb. 11. Wielding the giant scissors was Mayor Don Tatzin, aided by Police Chief Eric Christensen, Assemblywoman Catharine Baker, Police Records Supervisor Cathy Surges-Moscato, Vice Mayor Cam Burks, state Sen. Steve Glazer's District Director Teresa Gerringer and City Council Member Mark Mitchell.

Christensen's hard work over the last six years within the Lafayette police department was recognized as Baker dedicated the new flagpole at the front of the building to the chief and presented him with a flag. Illuminations on the flagpole will allow the flag to be flown 24 hours a day. A plaque at the base serves as a reminder of Christensen's service.

Once the new offices officially opened, a steady crowd jostled through and got an up-close look at many of the police gadgets and toys. The drone was flying overhead in a demonstration. Police vehicles, including the SWAT vehicle, were available to explore. Refreshments were served and enjoyed at tables set up in the back.

As children ran from room to

room and then clambered in the police cars and motorcycles parked outside, police officers and volunteers answered questions about the new facility.

The police currently continue to operate from their old location until everything is set for their communications to switch over. Christensen says that is due to happen on Feb. 26. For now though the building is still unfurnished. The only addition thus far is a painting in the lobby, provided by Lafayette's multitalented city manager, Steve Falk.

This was a rare chance for residents to go behind the scenes in the police station without an escort and "heavy wrist jewelry."



Photo Pippa Fisher

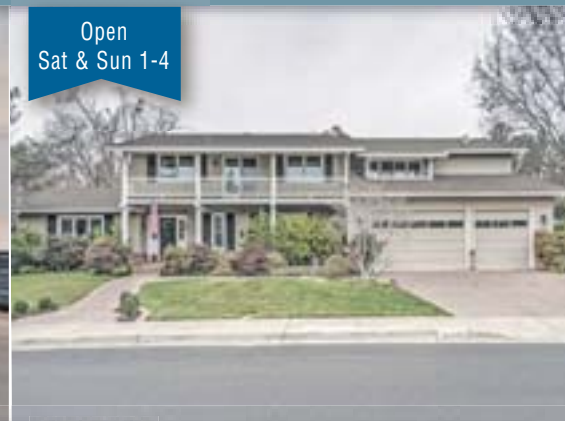
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## Coming Soon!



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