

BART bill to head for senate vote

By Pippa Fisher



Will the BART parking lot, empty at weekends and full during the week, be the site of transit-oriented development in the future? Photo Pippa Fisher

The controversial BART bill, proposing dense residential construction on BART-owned land, came a step closer to reality Aug. 16, with a 5-2 vote for the bill from the Senate Appropriations Committee. Now the bill is heading for a full senate floor vote within the next two weeks in order to be on the governor's desk by Sept. 1.

While no one denies the need for increased housing in the Bay Area, every mayor in the county's 19 cities registered their objection to the proposal with their signatures on a letter of opposition. At issue are concerns over lack of local government control.

Assembly Bill 2923, sponsored by Assembly Members David Chiu and Timothy Grayson, as initially written would hand control

and regulations to BART to adopt transit-oriented development on BART-owned land within a half-mile radius around stations, which calls for a minimum height of five stories and a minimum density of 75 housing units per acre.

Although it is understood that some amendments were made to allow for density bonuses and to include a section about consultation, specific details were not available when this article was written.

Lafayette Mayor Don Tatzin was disappointed by the Appropriations Committee vote. "Cities are approving transit-oriented development without the bill and sometimes without BART," he said. "The bill sets a dangerous precedent for other special districts to start setting land use policies." ... continued on page A12

Community-building on National Night Out



Photo provided

Sgt. Tom Rossberg and Police Records Supervisor Cathy Surges-Moscato encouraged youngsters at Lafayette Pointe to explore a police car as part of National Night Out Aug. 7 as neighbors engaged with police in three communities across Lafayette.

The other two locations in La-

fayette that held gatherings this year were Black Forest Court and Solana Court.

The community-building event takes place on the first Tuesday in August in thousands of neighborhoods across the country.

- P. Fisher

Lafayette Park Theater?

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Furthermore he said he could not support moving forward without an answer to where the money to operate the theater over time would come from. Preliminary budget estimates suggest it could cost somewhere in the region of \$600,000 annually.

The council's discussion focused on whether there is enough public enthusiasm for the project to merit exploring options going forward. Public comment from residents seemed overwhelmingly in favor of creative, out-of-the-box thinking to save the theater.

Several members of the Lafayette Community Foundation and the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation expressed the willingness of their organiza-

tions to be involved. LCF President Cheryl Noll pointed to the foundation's track record of partnering in the creation of the library and with the Lafayette Rotary in the creation of the stage at the reservoir.

The council agreed they needed clarity going forward both in terms of where the money would come from and what such a development would look like.

To that end they directed the city to work with a subcommittee of Mayor Don Tatzin Vice Mayor Cam Burks, the developer, members of the LCF and LLLCF as well as interested members of the public to explore all options and to ask the developer formally for drawings to get a better idea of the scale of the proposed new building.



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The Lafayette School District is currently seeking applicants who are active in a senior citizens' organization to fill an open position on the Measure C Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee.

Applications are available on the District website at www.lafsd.org or email Kathy Kessenich at kkesseni@lafsd.org for more information.