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Skate stunts by Owen Myall

Photo Vera Kochan

# Local teen sparks improvements to Moraga skate park

By Vera Kochan

Originally constructed in 2003, thanks to a tri-city partnership between Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda involving initial funding as well as ongoing maintenance, the skate park is a popular feature at Moraga Commons Park.

All good things, through time and observation, can always be improved. And who better to make those observations to a skate park than the kids who

use it. Owen Myall, an Acalanes High School student and Lafayette resident, was just 14 years old when he first approached the Moraga Town Council 16 months ago. During the public comments and suggestions portion of the meeting, Myall came prepared with a written proposal of his vision for improvements to the skate park.

Parks and Recreation Director Breyana Brandt recalled, "It was my second day on the job and my first town council meeting. After Owen's presentation the council said it was a perfect project

for me to begin with. Owen and I got together and using his notes, we tightened things up."

Myall based his ideas on feedback and comments that fellow skateboarders had made. Adding a water bottle filling station would help to eliminate the dozens of empty plastic bottles that litter the "bowl" – what skaters call the deep part of the park. More people are using metal water containers and would not leave them as trash.

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**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Senior Symposium**  
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# Construction ramping up in downtown Lafayette



Photo Pippa Fisher

The backhoe lies still, dwarfed by the depth of the hole, awaiting a September start on construction on Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

By Pippa Fisher

What's up with that big hole in the west end of downtown Lafayette?

The 2.04-acre lot, prepped and ready on the corner of Dolores Drive and Mt. Diablo Boulevard, is about to see progress start in earnest. Interim City Manager Niroop Srivatsa says that according to the developer's latest schedule construction will begin in early September and is expected to last for two years.

Development company Lennar Homes will be constructing a three-story, mixed-use development with 66 for-sale condominiums of which 10 units are to be affordable to very low to moderate-income households. The 5,400 square feet of commercial use will include a full-service restaurant and 171 on-site parking spaces. The project was approved in March 2016.

Meanwhile, further west, work on the 6.5-acre lot for Woodbury Highlands at 3700 Mt. Diablo Blvd. is also underway.

City Contract Planner Jean Eisberg says the developer Davidon Homes has completed demolition and rough grading and is currently working on retaining walls, utilities, and private and public improvements. Work started in July 2018. It is anticipated to have a four-to-five-year build out for the 17 buildings.

The project required the demolition of seven commercial buildings and will provide 99 new for-sale multi-family dwelling units in two to three story construction plus 5,500 square feet of community gathering spaces with 192 parking spaces as well as more than 20,000 square feet of usable outdoor areas. The two- and three-bedroom condominium homes will range from 1,149 to 2,737 square feet.

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