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# Voters prioritize schools; further cuts avoided with success of **Measure** L



Photo Pippa Fisher

#### By Pippa Fisher

No one was more pleased to cancel the March 4 school

governing board meeting than the board members themselves. This was the meeting at which they were to have discussed cuts to

school spending if Measure L – the parcel tax to secure additional funding for all district TK to eighth grade schools - had failed. It didn't. Voters showed their support of the measure, which got over the two-thirds majority the measure needed to pass.

The seven-year, \$290 per year parcel tax is needed, according to campaign organizers, to attract and retain high quality teachers, and to prevent deep cuts to math, science, reading, language arts, engineering, technology and robotics programs as well as to maintain manageable class sizes, keep facilities safe, clean and well maintained, and to preserve the high quality programs currently offered in music, visual and

performing arts.

Lafayette School District governing board President Meredith Meade is grateful to the voters of Lafayette. Recognizing the hard work of the Yes on L campaign co-chairs Tom Mulvaney and Danielle Gallagher and their support team, she says that since Dec. 3, when the Lafayette School District governing board voted to go forward with a parcel tax, these citizens and many other community volunteers worked tirelessly to inform and educate residents about this measure.

"Due to the state of California's Local Control Funding Formula, our District is dependent on the support of our community to help bridge the funding gap and maintain

schools that are consistently ranked among the top in our state," says Meade, adding, "The board will continue to keep a sharp eye on our budgets and funding sources, but thankfully the urgent need to make cuts has subsided. In fact, we are hopeful that we will be able to reinstate some programs that we have had to cut the past few years, and institute some new ones based on our students' current needs."

Gallagher echoes Meade's thanks to the community volunteers who worked so hard on the Yes on Measure L campaign. "Their efforts exemplify why Lafayette is such a great place to live, work and raise our children," she says.

## Housing, jobs, transportation; critical balancing act, says mayor

#### By Pippa Fisher

Sharp-eyed residents might have noticed a little more activity recently at the site of the long-silent, large hole in the ground on the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Dolores Drive. The Lennar Homes development is finally under way and will provide 66 condominiums plus 5,400 square feet of commercial uses including a full-service restaurant.

The three-story building

will feature a 171-space underground parking lot. Ten of the units are to be offered at below market rate to income-qualified households. Completion is estimated for the end of 2021.

In fact the backhoes and diggers provide a constant humming through the length of Lafayette these days, with construction in progress also at Woodbury Highlands, at 3700 Mt. Diablo Blvd. above the Woodbury development, and at the other end of town, at the Tancready development on Brown Avenue.

At Woodbury Highlands the project will provide 99 units, 15 at BMR, with completion of the first 27 estimated for spring 2021. The Brown Avenue construction will provide 13 condominiums, two at BMR, with completion expected late next year. Since 2010 Lafayette has approved 247 units, some of which are now completed and occupied and some of which are under construction. Additionally there are another 603 units

under review.

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Photo Pippa Fisher

LAFAYETTE Lafayette

**Public Meetings** 

#### **City Council**

Canceled during March Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt.

#### **Planning Commission** Meeting

Canceled during March Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt.

#### **Design Review**

Canceled during March Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Arts & Science Discovery Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

#### **School Board Meetings Acalanes Union High School** District

preliminary stages of development.

Woodbury Highlands is in the

Wednesday, March 18, 7 p.m. AUHSD Board Room 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Laf. www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

## **Lafayette School District**

Wednesday, April 22, 7 p.m. Regular Board Meeting Stanley M.S. Library 3477 School St., Lafayette www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

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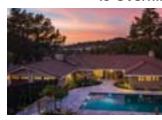
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