

Whole Foods Slowly Moves Closer to Completion

By Cathy Tyson



First Lucky's, then Albertsons, hopefully third time's the charm when Whole Foods opens in downtown Lafayette.

Residents wondering what's up with the mysterious construction trailer at the corner of the Whole Foods Market parking lot should wonder no more. Work is slated to begin on the long awaited grocery store in the near future.

"It should open in the early part of next year. We're just awaiting a final building permit from the City," said Adam Smith, Whole Foods Project Manager. "We're very excited."

To the untrained eye, it's impossible to see the massive amount of work it took to get to this point. The original proposal was referred to the City Engineer, Circulation Commission staff, City Traffic Consultant, City Landscape Consultant, Central Sanitary District, EBMUD, Fire Protection District, County Health Department, Caltrans, the Chamber of Commerce and Lafayette Police.

Then there were parking considerations. As reported in

March 2008, the Fire District had increased its space requirements for the fire lanes at the rear of the store. The loss of these twenty spaces made complying with current Municipal Code of one parking spot per 250 square feet of net floor area for retail businesses impossible. There were just not enough spots in the existing lot to accommodate shoppers and employees.

That led to the purchase of a .72 acre employee lot at the corner of Deer Hill Road and First Street. Although conveniently located near the store, the lot is bounded on three sides by roads making getting in and out a potential challenge. This led to traffic studies by both Lafayette and Whole Foods. "This has contributed to the length of the process," said Smith. When complete the lot will meet all requirements including landscaping, fencing and drainage.

Project Planner Lindy Chan

Photo C. Tyson explained the current status, "The applicant is submitting materials based on their conditions of approval and I believe we are awaiting comments from various agencies, such as the health department, central sanitary, Caltrans, etc. The City of Lafayette is also reviewing the plans and providing comments." This part of the process varies and can take up to a month; once the City has signed off on the plans, the Building Inspection Department will review them and issue permits.

In 2011 look for the store to open with its bakery, color-coded sustainability-rated seafood, ready to go take-out meals and not a plastic bag in sight. The new store will also feature outdoor tables similar to the Walnut Creek Whole Foods location. Shoppers can enjoy a slice of pizza outside and the public art that is required under the Public Art Ordinance.

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Mayor, Lafayette, 2009-present

Councilmember, Lafayette City Council, 2002, 2006-present

Director, Lafayette Community Found., 2005-07

Chair, Lafayette Public Safety Implementation Comm., 1995-97

Chair, Orinda Planning Commission, 1989; Commissioner 1987-89



"Brandt is a thoughtful, insightful councilmember. His grasp of the issues is evident at every turn. I know we can count on him to continue to provide good ideas and to make sound decisions. His gentle, wry wit is a bonus. I am grateful he is willing to serve."

-- Judy Garvens, Former Mayor and Citizen of the Year

To preserve and enhance the quality of life in Lafayette, we need strong continuing city leadership:

Fiscal Responsibility:

Lafayette balances our budgets, maintains reserves 50% above our target, and holds a AAA bond rating. We continue to provide the level of services our citizens expect.

We need to continue to provide a level of services that we can sustain over the long term;

We must prioritize our financial needs and be creative in seeking additional funding for city projects;

We will continue to balance budgets to sustain our financial reserves and maintain our top bond ratings.

Downtown Development:

The new Library and Learning Center has provided a focus for civic activity in downtown Lafayette.

It is critical to continue to support a vital, friendly downtown, by working with local businesses, improving infrastructure and amenities, and long term planning that respects diverse concerns and the significant constraints on our infrastructure.

Personal:

Lafayette Resident since 1993
Parent of Lafayette school children, 1996-present
Tenor, Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church Choirs
Coach, Lafayette youth soccer (LMYA), 14 seasons
Married to Patricia for 38 years, law partners for 13 years
Linnea attends Campolindo High School
Erik attends Savannah College of Art & Design

"This is a time when we need leadership that builds collaboration among community groups. Having worked with Brandt in multiple situations, I have seen him create consensus out of chaos. He is bright, cares deeply about this town, and has a vision of Lafayette that I share."

-- Kathy Merchant, Program Director, Lafayette Library & Learning Center Foundation

Residential Character:

Despite the economy, Lafayette homes have held their value.

Maintaining the semi-rural character of our neighborhoods and our open spaces is paramount;

We must set and enforce consistent development standards that respect neighborhood character;

We will continue to seek opportunities for affordable housing, especially for seniors.

Open Space Preservation:

We have permanently preserved Acalanes Ridge in collaboration with Walnut Creek, East Bay Parks, and Muir Heritage Land Trust.

We have identified open space preservation priorities.

We seek opportunities to collaborate with other agencies and organizations to preserve key open spaces;

We must incorporate hillside and ridgeline preservation and development of creeks, trails, and parks in our land use planning.

Professional & Education:

Attorney, 18 years
Andersson & Andersson PC, Walnut Creek
McCutchen, Doyle, Brown & Enersen, Walnut Creek
Research Scientist, 13 years
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
University of California, Berkeley,
Juris Doctor
Massachusetts Inst. of Tech (MIT)
Master of Architecture, Bachelor of Science

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