

Merrill Gardens Project Moving Forward

By Cathy Tyson



BEFORE: Plans received July 11, 2011



AFTER: Plans received August 8, 2011

Representatives of Merrill Gardens recently brought revised designs for a mixed use development with 72 assisted living apartments, a 17-bed memory care facility and about 6,000 square feet of retail space along Mt. Diablo near Second Street to the Design Review Commission.

Looking for input on the proposed modern prairie-style design, the developer received generally positive remarks from the Design Review Commissioners. They have "substantially responded to comments and direction resulting in a better project," notes a staff report.

Six existing parcels, including the former Keenan Heinz shop and Yan's restaurant along with four

other parcels, are being consolidated to form the 1.35 acre site that will accommodate 74 underground parking spaces below street level retail and the retirement facility.

Discussion at the Design Review meeting focused on the courtyard, landscape, street frontage and parking. Merrill Gardens would like to incorporate diagonal street parking similar to what's in front of the Mercantile building. The Design Review Commissioners were pleased with the project and forwarded a recommendation of approval to the Planning Commission, as well as the Circulation Commission, to investigate if diagonal parking is feasible and if so, how to make it work while incorporating it into the design.

Making Magic at the Library

By Cathy Tyson



The Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation knows how to throw a party. In 2009 it closed Mt. Diablo Boulevard for a glamorous evening of dining and dancing to celebrate the completion of the library. This year the gala

fundraising event, Celebrate the Magic, on September 10 from 6:30 to 11:00 p.m., "will be a magical, memorable evening of Arabian nights and surprises at every turn," said the Executive Director of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation, Kathy Merchant.

Funds raised support current and expanded Library programs, events and open hours. Once again there will be delicious food prepared by local caterer SpringLoaf and festive music by Martini Straight Up, fantastic raffle prizes and auctions – this time around, Golden Gate Way will be closed for the festivities.

Celebrate the Magic promises surprises, sparkle and magic throughout the night.

... continued on page A10



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