As seen in Lafayette...



Known for their fantastic produce, it must be close to Halloween when giant furry spiders, ghosts and scarecrows invade the pumpkin patch just outside the front door of independent, family-owned Diablo Foods. C. Tyson

Draft Downtown Plan Ready for Final Hearings

... continued from page A1

According to Niroop Srivatsa, Planning and Building Services Manager, height limits are spelled out within the district sections.

longer than anticipated. "On December 6, we will mark five years of working on the r DSP. I don't think anyone originally thought it would take that long, but it is an important issue for the community and important issues take time," said Merideth.

You can say that again— there have been more than thirty-eight Planning Commission meetings and twenty-two meetings of the Advisory Committee, made up of a cross section of citizen volunteers and City Council and Planning Commission representatives to offer input.

One of the members of the Advisory Committee, Brayton Noll, started when he was a sophomore in that goal."

high school; now he's in his junior year at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon – although currently he's in the midst of a semester abroad The process has taken significantly in Ecuador. His mother Cheryl Noll, also on the Advisory Committee, comments that it's not that surprising that it has taken so long considering current civic budget issues: "It's amazing that anything is moving forward. That's one of the reasons that this has been such a great experience for Brayton. He has been personally involved in a governmental process, which sometimes takes years to get anything done! He has learned that you have to be very patient when you have so many parties and interest groups who may all agree on a common goal, but all have slightly different ideas as to the best way to reach

Will the Specific Plan Impact the Terraces Project?

Whether or not the Revised Draft Downtown Specific Plan is adopted in time to influence the proposed Terraces of Lafayette project is unknown. At a recent Planning Commission meeting a room full of concerned residents turned out to passionately protest the proposed large apartment complex across from Acalanes High School.

Because the application is officially complete, the project is required to go through Lafayette's planning review process which includes an environmental impact report that would clarify potential impacts to air quality, noise, traffic, green house gas emissions and more. The developer, O'Brien Land Company, LLC will pay for the study to be completed by a consulting team. Despite opponents' negative comments, the meeting was designed to determine the scope of the environmental impact report. The report is slated to be complete in January, at that time the public will, once again, have an opportunity to comment.

Current zoning for the parcel is APO, Administrative, Professional, Office use that allows up to 35 units per acre, more than enough to accommodate the potential 315-unit multi-family apartment complex on the twenty-two acre site. The City was in the process of downzoning the parcel at the corner of Deer Hill Road and Pleasant Hill Road when the building application was submitted, although a change has not yet been finalized. The matter has been put on hold while the city attorney reviews the situation. C. Tyson



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