

# Mayor Federighi Delivers State of the City Recap



Carol Federighi

Photo Andy Scheck

Addressing a full house at the Lafayette Park Hotel, Mayor Carol Federighi reflected on the past and looked ahead to the future for the City of Lafayette. She has served as mayor twice before, and has been on the City Council since 1999, so she confidently gave a brief fact-filled summary before the other event of the evening, the Business Person of the Year award.

Federighi discussed the City's finances, "Despite a sluggish economy, we finished the year with a \$2000 sur-

plus." With a balanced budget and a substantial monetary safety net in the reserve account, the city has a AAA bond rating.

Looking forward, she predicts that in 2012 the City Council will adopt the Downtown Specific Plan. This year will also bring improvement to the streetscapes - Pleasant Hill Road project is nearing completion and the face lift of the sidewalks along Mt. Diablo is well underway. C. Tyson

# BART Fleet of the Future May Take a While

By Cathy Tyson

It's only natural to start noticing a few gray hairs and wrinkles around a milestone birthday. As BART turns 40, it's taking a hard look at the nation's oldest transportation fleet. Regular riders know that most of the cars in the system have seen better days and can definitely use a face lift.

On average a single car currently runs 110,000 miles per year; collectively the cars are nearing the end of their useful life. The BART Car Replacement Project will replace BART's existing 669 cars over time and is currently projected to cost approximately \$3.2 billion in year-of-expenditure dollars, according to Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) report in January. Approximately three-quarters of the overall funding will come from the MTC, with BART contributing 25%,

approximately \$800 million.

BART's Board of Directors is expected to award a contract in May selecting one of the three finalists; all are from outside of the U.S.; Alstom - France, Bombardier Transit - Canada, and Hyundai Rotem - South Korea. The lucky winner will be expected to manufacture ten test cars for Phase 1 of the massive project to be delivered in early 2015.

Phase 2 is slated to follow a similar formula, but voters may be asked to approve a tax to help defray costs.

Riders will see a payoff in modern, sleeker, more contemporary design made with more functional materials that can be wiped clean. Goodbye nasty carpet and seats. Three doors on each car will assist those getting in and out - especially during peak commute hours.

... continued on page A9

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