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## Sidewalk Facelift Inching **Down the Boulevard**

By Cathy Tyson



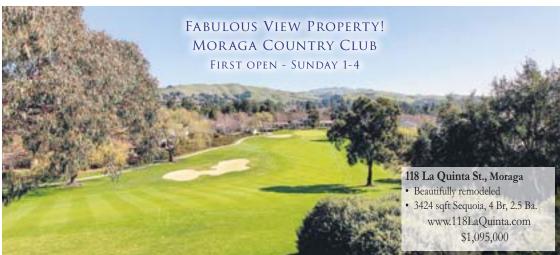
H though the project can't march along fast enough for Mt. Diablo merchants, Lafayette pedestrians can actually walk on the new and vastly improved sidewalk in front of the Round Up Saloon down to Amarin Thai and a bit beyond. The progress continues westward as the contractor, McGuire Hester, not for road maintenance. deals with a few delays in the process.

As expected there have been triangular, a low stone wall in front some slight bumps in the road, or of Diablo Foods is in the prelimirather sidewalk, rather like finding unanticipated dry rot in a home remodel. Unbeknownst to everyone, parking lot from drivers on the the PG & E and AT & T lines were Boulevard and make it more attracnot buried deep enough when the tive with the addition of greenery. original sidewalks were installed in Vines will ultimately cover the the 1950's and 1960's. Fixing that parking lot side of the wall. In front set the timeline back a bit. Just last of Trader Joe's, because existing Thursday, an abandoned natural gas trees have very shallow roots, the line that was not marked on the stone wall was nixed in favor of a contractors plans was bent, causing substantial metal fence with decoa leak in the 3500 block of Mt. Di- rative panels. ablo Boulevard that closed the road. Finally, although the weather ponent of the job, estimated to be has been cooperating lately, there complete in June. Look for the yelhad been a few delays for rain, said low caution tape around areas Senior Engineer Farzaneh Sanders. where future shrubs will go. City "We've been fairly lucky, just a staff wish to remind drivers to slow couple of weeks behind at this point," she said. Who's paying for all this, and equipment and traffic. For the latwhat about spending the money on est news on the Downtown Pedespothole repair instead? Federal trian, Bicycle and Streetscape Grant funds that are managed by Improvements Project, go to the CalTrans are paying for 80% of the city \$1.69 million dollar upgrade. The www.lovelafayette.com and scroll City is required to contribute a 20% down to "Road and Street Work match. Originally money was set Updates."

ere a brick, there a brick. Al- aside from the Downtown Streetlight Replacement Reserve to spruce up just one block on Mt. Diablo Boulevard; by obtaining the grant, they were able to leverage municipal funds substantially. The grant, however, comes with strings attached - it can only be used on the sidewalk beautification project,

> Kind of like the pyramids of Egypt, only shorter and much less nary stages of being erected. The idea was to visually separate the

> Landscaping is the final comdown and have a little extra patience, especially around workers, website at



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