



**Public Meetings**

**City Council**

Monday, Sept. 14, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Planning Commission**

Monday, Sept. 21, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Design Review**

Monday, Sept. 14, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Arts & Science Discovery Center,  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**School Board Meetings**

**Acalanes Union High School District**  
Wednesday, Sept. 16, 7:30 p.m.  
AUHSD Board Room  
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette  
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

**Lafayette School District**

Wednesday, Sept. 9, 7 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  
District Office Board Room  
3477 School St., Lafayette  
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

**City of Lafayette:**

www.ci.lafayette.ca.us  
Phone: (925) 284-1968

**Chamber of Commerce:**

www.lafayettechamber.org

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**Downtown Congestion Study Starts This Fall**

By Cathy Tyson

A steering committee of civic leaders and volunteers recently met with senior transportation engineers from Arup, a global consultant group that specialize in infrastructure design, economics and planning, to mold an upcoming study project to investigate ways to reduce traffic congestion and accommodate future growth, while improving safety and maintaining Lafayette's small town character.

"We understand congestion is a major concern and in many ways is getting worse," said Senior Transportation Engineer Michael Iswalt with Arup. He explained that Arup will use new data sources to identify not just the number of cars on the roads, but travel patterns within the

city, which will reveal much richer information, allowing the consultants to tailor solutions.

Funding for the study came from Measure J funds, via a planning grant administered by the Contra Costa Transit Authority. Measure J is a voter-approved tax measure to continue the county's half-cent transportation sales tax, which can only be used on transportation programs and projects.

After the adoption of the Lafayette Downtown Specific Plan back in 2012, the city council "wanted to take yet another look at downtown congestion and what can be done about it," said Tony Coe, city engineer. "Similar studies have been undertaken in the past, stretching back some three decades. This particular one will look at a broader spectrum of solutions, including new technologies and traffic management methods."

Most importantly, given the current downtown congestion, the study may also be the first time seriously discuss options involving large-scale capital improvements such as a bypass corridor for regional through traffic to circumvent the downtown, said Coe.

Quantitative criteria will be used to evaluate strategies, ultimately com-



Traffic on Mt. Diablo Boulevard

Photo Cathy Tyson

ing up with solution options to address clogged roads that can be compared against each other and be evaluated for effectiveness.

The Circulation Commission is, as the name suggests, all about vehicular movement, parking, sidewalks and bikeways. It came to the conclusion while considering this study that "continual worsening of downtown traffic congestion compromises the mobility, health, safety and quality of life for Lafayette residents." One of the commissioners would like to expand on

that, stating it is the entire city of Lafayette, pretty much, that suffers from continual worsening of traffic congestion – heavy and prolonged traffic on Reliez Station Road, Pleasant Hill Road, Happy Valley Road, Reliez Valley Road and Springhill, plus the freeway cutting through Lafayette.

Back in 2014, council member, now mayor Brandt Andersson called the congestion study "a game changer – to narrow down traffic solutions to some big ideas."

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**Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Aug. 16-29**

- Alarms** 74
- 911 Calls (incl hang-ups)** 12
- Noise complaints** 10
- Traffic stops** 142
- Suspicious Circumstances** 13
- Suspicious Subjects** 22
- Suspicious Vehicles** 39
- Abandoned Vehicle**
  - 900 block Janet Ln
  - 10 block Olde Creek Pl
  - 10 block Middle Rd
- Animal Cruelty**
  - Mt Diablo Blvd/Oak Hill Rd
  - Mt Diablo Blvd/Lafayette Cir
  - Safeway
- Burglary, Auto**
  - 3500 block Mt Diablo Blvd
  - El Nido Ranch/Acalanes Rd
  - 3300 block Deer Hill Rd
  - 1400 block Sunset Lp
  - 3100 block Stanley Blvd
- Burglary, Commercial**
  - Springhill Elementary
- Civil Problem**
  - 1000 block Rahara Dr
  - 900 block Stow Ln
  - Starbucks
  - 3200 block Quandt Rd
  - 3700 block Mt Diablo Blvd
  - 90 block Carolyn Ct
  - 3300 block Deer Hill Rd
  - 7-11
- Credit Fraud**
  - 1100 block Sierra Vista Way
- Disturbing the Peace**
  - 200 block Lafayette Cir
  - Mt Diablo Blvd/Acalanes Rd
  - 3200 block Mt Diablo Blvd
  - 3rd St/Moraga Blvd
- Drunk in Public**
  - Library
  - Deer Hill/Oak Hill Rds
- Forgery**
  - 3300 block Mt Diablo Blvd
  - Bank of America
- Health & Safety Violation**
  - 1100 block Pleasant Hill Cir
  - Acalanes High School
- Hit & Run**
  - 1700 block Reliez Valley Rd
  - 3800 block Happy Valley Rd
  - 3700 block Mt Diablo Blvd
  - Mt Diablo Blvd/Moraga Rd
  - Almanor Ln/Mt Diablo Blvd
  - CVS (2)
  - 1000 block Windsor Dr
  - Dewing Av/Bickerstaff St
  - 3300 block Beechwood Dr
- Misdemeanor**
  - 1000 block Windsor Dr
  - (10 citations)
- Missing Adult**
  - 700 block Los Palos Manor
  - 3500 block Moraga Blvd
- Neighbor Dispute**
  - 1200 block Upper Happy Valley Rd
  - 3500 block Silver Springs Rd
  - 3400 block Echo Springs Rd

- Panhandling**
  - Acalanes High School
- Police/Fire/EMS response**
  - 1000 block Via Nueva
  - 3300 Johnson Rd
  - Moraga Rd/Brook St
  - 3300 Mt Diablo Blvd
- Public Nuisance**
  - 3500 block Mt Diablo Blvd (2)
  - Moraga Blvd/Victoria Av
  - Lafayette Community Center
  - 1st St/Mt Diablo Blvd (2)
- Promiscuous Shooting**
  - 900 block Hawthorne Dr
- Reckless Driving**
  - Pleasant Hill Rd/Reliez Cr Ln
  - 900 block Raintree Pl
  - 3200 block Ortega Ave
  - Golden Gate Way/2nd St
  - Reliez Valley/Echo Springs Rd
  - Lafayette Cir/Mt Diablo Blvd
  - Pleasant Hill/Deer Hill Rds (2)
  - Olympic Blvd/Reliez Station Rd
  - Mt Diablo Blvd/Oak Hill Rd
  - Deer Hill/Happy Valley Rds
  - 1300 block El Curtola
  - Moraga Rd/Brook St
  - Martino Rd/N Scenic Dr
- Shoplifting**
  - Safeway
- Theft, Petty**
  - 900 block Third St
  - 100 block Silverwood Dr
  - 10 block Middle Rd
  - Safeway
  - 3700 block St Francis Dr
  - 3400 block Moraga Blvd
  - 80 block Silverwood Dr
  - 3600 block Happy Valley Rd
  - 600 block Moraga Rd
  - 3400 block Mt Diablo Blvd
  - 1000 block Aileen St
  - 3500 Mt Diablo Blvd
  - 600 block Glorietta Blvd
  - (from vehicle)
  - 100 block Silverwood Dr
  - Shell Station
- Theft, ID**
  - 1100 block Rahara Dr (2)
  - 4100 block Hidden Valley Rd
- Theft, Vehicle**
  - 900 block Moraga Rd
  - 800 block Acalanes Rd
  - Pleasant Hill Rd/Hwy 24 (2)
- Theft, Grand**
  - Starbucks
  - 3300 block Mt Diablo Blvd
- Threats**
  - 900 block Moraga Rd
  - 3300 block Moraga Blvd
- Trespass**
  - Temple Isaiah
- Unwanted Guest**
  - Valero
  - 1000 block S Thompson Rd
  - 3700 block St Francis Dr

**New Reconfigured Cottage Plan for Mountain View Parcel**

By Cathy Tyson



Preliminary conceptual rendering of proposed development on Mountain View Drive, behind Trader Joe's. Image provided

It has been a tough journey for developer Dan Freeman of Lenox Homes in Lafayette. The local developer's original application for a multi-family project on Mountain View Drive first got off the drawing board about two years ago. Since then, the developer of the proposed project directly behind Trader Joe's has revised the project twice, withdrew its original application, hired new architects and recently came before the Design Review Commission with a completely revamped concept.

It was clear that the prior monolithic project was not going to be ap-

proved, so Freeman started fresh with local architect Steven Kubitschek of Orinda as designer, and Lafayette-based Newell Americh as architect. Kubitschek is known for the unique design of the Amanda Lane project, which consists of five homes clustered on one parcel just a few blocks from the Lenox Homes site location.

"We want to enhance the neighborhood," said Freeman, who reached out to neighbors in multiple meetings for input over the past two and a half years, noting how it ultimately resulted "in the best fit for all of us." He also heeded the advice of commis-

sioners who strongly suggested not returning with minor tweaks on the original project.

The team recently presented the new and improved revised plan – six homes of about 1,800 to 1,900 square feet that are in three duplexes, around a central shared lane that also serves as a kid play area and is pedestrian friendly – at an informal Design Review Commission meeting. Homes that back up to the large Trader Joe's wall are three stories tall, with two-story buildings on the southern side that back up to single family homes.

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