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Long-awaited parking lot's official opening in East End of Lafayette



Photo Pippa Fisher

City Council Members were joined by members of the Chamber of Commerce and members of the East End Coalition for the ribbon cutting ceremony to declare the new parking lot open May 13.

By Pippa Fisher

It's been four years in the making and it's close to one year late but a small group of

officials from the city of Lafayette, the Chamber of Commerce and members of

the East End Coalition turned out to watch Mayor Mike Anderson cut the ribbon on the official opening of the East End Parking Lot on May 13.

Anderson declared the small lot open, saying "The city of Lafayette owes a great debt of gratitude to EBMUD Director John Coleman and General Manager Alex Coate for their flexibility and willingness to make these improvements a part of their pump relocation project," adding, "These additional parking spaces will be well used and much appreciated by the residents of Lafayette."

Anderson also expressed gratitude for the support of the East End Coalition.

The parking lot, comprised of 15 spaces plus one van-accessible handicap space, is located next to Ace

Hardware at 3311 Mt. Diablo Blvd. The lot was constructed as part of a land exchange agreement between the city and the East Bay Municipal Utility District, which has put up a brand new water pumping facility on the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Mt. Diablo Court next to Blodgett's Abbey Carpet and Flooring.

The public parking spaces have meters, which will be operational from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. The small area complies with the latest storm water pollution prevention standards and Lafayette's clean water program by incorporating a bioretention facility that treats runoff, removing potential contaminants that enter the creeks, streams and, ultimately, the Bay.

Lafayette bans sale of flavored tobacco products

By Nick Marnell

Flavored tobacco products will be on the way out come the end of June after the Lafayette City Council unanimously voted to ban the sale of the products in the city at its May 13 meeting. On the way in is a tobacco retailers license which will apply to all sellers of tobacco, tobacco products and tobacco paraphernalia.

The city expects that the tobacco retailers license will help with the enforcement of state and federal tobacco control laws, particularly laws prohibiting sales of tobacco products to minors. Lafayette will issue 11 tobacco retailers licenses, the businesses must reapply each year and licenses will not be granted to pharmacies.

Speakers mostly applauded

both the flavored tobacco product ban and the licensing regulations, with one representative from Contra Costa Health Services confirming that licensing has been proven effective in reducing the sale of tobacco to youth. "We do not support a business that is in the line of work to kill you," she said.

The president of an industry trade group insisted that

the ban on selling flavored tobacco products would not reduce smoking and will shift spending to adjacent cities. "It punishes retailers who abide by the law," he said.

Council Member Cam Burks, who introduced the flavored tobacco ban and retailers licensing ordinance in 2018, called the passing of the ordinance "the proudest day since I've served on the city council. I

don't think there's anything greater than protecting the health of our youth."

The ordinance moved to the city council consent calendar for adoption May 28, and if adopted will become law June 27. Depending on eligibility requirements, retailers may apply for an extension of up to 10 months to sell their existing flavored tobacco product.

Council OKs signature art piece for the city

By Nick Marnell

A split Lafayette City Council approved the design of a public art display for the Town Center III BART Pathway and Bike Center project at its May 13 meeting, with one council member voting no because of

the number of parking spaces the project would take up in the adjacent BART station lot.

The city council signed off on the Town Center III project in 2016. Plans included a pathway between the BART station and the development, a public plaza and a bike locker on the south side of the station. The

purpose of the project was to improve the route for pedestrians and bicyclists between the BART station and downtown Lafayette, and to further improve the route the council in 2018 allocated \$230,000 for public art for the project. The artist, Kinematics Lab, created "Dandelion Seeds" and pre-

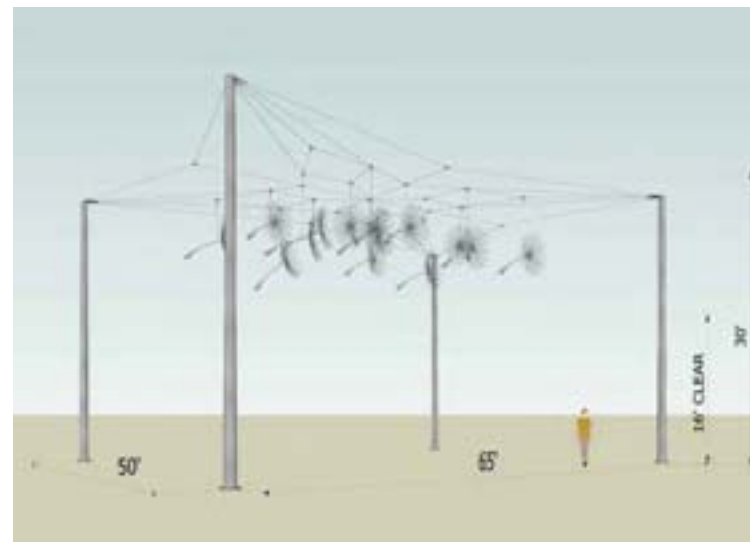


Image provided

Proposed Dandelion Seed art piece for Town Center III pathway

sented an example of the art piece at the May 13 meeting.

"I just don't get this project," said Vice Mayor Susan Candell, who agreed that an art display at the entrance to the city was worthwhile but said that losing 19 parking spaces in the BART lot was not. She voted to nix the project.

Council Member Cam Burks agreed with Candell. "Losing the 19 parking spots gives me great trouble," Burks said. "It will be to the detriment of many workers who live in and come to our town." But he agreed that "Dandelion Seeds" was a beautiful piece of art, and would become another

signature piece for the city. Burks suppressed his reservations about the loss of parking spots and voted to approve the project.

The cost of the Town Center project was estimated at \$1.47 million, and will be funded by a combination of grants and local matches from the city and BART, according to a city staff report. The funds for the "Dandelion Seeds" artwork will come from Woodbury Highlands developer fees.

After approvals from all participating parties, the council expects to award a contract in March with project construction to begin in June 2020.

COMPASS

Lamorinda Listings

 New Price 3210 Sharon Court, Lafayette \$1,350,000	 Just Listed 996 Hawthorne Drive, Lafayette \$1,195,000
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Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council
 Monday, June 10, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings
Acalanes Union High School District
 Wednesday, May 29, 7 p.m.
 AUHSD Board Room
 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
 www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Planning Commission
 Monday, June 3, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review
 Monday, June 10, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Arts & Science Discovery Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Lafayette School District
 Wednesday, June 26, 7 p.m.
 Regular Board Meeting
 District Office Board Room
 3477 School St., Lafayette
 www.lafsd.k12.ca.us