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Mighty Market refill apothecary opens in Lafayette



Photo Vera Kochan

Mighty Market offers a wide variety of refill products.

By Vera Kochan

No, it's not a new grocery store. Mighty Market (3568 Mt Diablo Blvd, Lafayette) is best described by its co-owners/sisters as a refill apothecary and sustainable marketplace.

Bronwyn Kopacek and Claire Martinez have owned their other location in downtown Martinez for over three years. The name of the stores is taken from the saying, "small but mighty," due to the fact that the shop's limited square footage holds a surprisingly large amount of skin care

products and more. "Our products are plant-based ingredients that are powerful and help people with skin issues, such as eczema," explained Kopacek. "Small steps lead to mighty changes."

Mighty Market officially opened June 8, but waited until July 14 for their Grand Opening. When asked what it's like to run a successful business with a sibling, Martinez replied, "If I had to do it again, I'd still do it with my sister."

"We are polar opposites, but it works," added Kopacek. "We don't get sick of each

other."

The store carries home care products on one side and personal care products on the other with a mix of both on counters in between. The concept is to either bring your own refill containers or make a one-time purchase from the store's various sizes, and pay for your purchase by the weight of product minus the weight of the refill container. There's even a community jar section for customers to bring in clean and empty containers for others to use when coming in to get refills. ... continued on Page A8

Cyber attacks and evacuation routes

... continued from Page A1

Importantly, staff's update process included the draft being circulated for review and comments to relevant agencies such as Cal Fire, ConFire, the California Geological Survey, the Lafayette Police Department, and the Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission. Because Lafayette contains zones with Very High Fire Hazard Severity designations, the California Board of Forestry also provided input. Throughout, the GPAC consulted with PlaceWorks, a firm that has worked with nearby cities such as Orinda and Walnut Creek.

Following the presentation, Mayor Carl Anduri's questions focused on cyber security and the planning commission's focus. Krispi highlighted two areas of concern addressed in the Safety Element: the potential disruption of city communica-

tion systems if they close down or are attacked during a public emergency; and the risks and impacts to public safety if any infrastructure systems such as traffic control or sewer systems are attacked and result in a loss of services during an emergency event. Later in the meeting, Council Member Gina Dawson and a member of the public asked if staff had consulted with other cities such as Oakland that have been the victims of cyber security attacks and if they might provide valuable information.

Council Member Wei-Tai Kwok focused on recommendations in the draft that appeared to apply largely, if not exclusively, to new developments. Existing structures have also been incorporated, according to Krispi, with language about policies pertaining especially to wildfire: maintaining defensive space and ensuring water sup-

plies are working around existing homes and buildings. He said the overall emphasis on new developments noticed by Kwok was because the city is able to demand new requirements for all new development projects due to the state issuing more directives and policies that must be implemented.

Kwok also asked about camera systems and wildfire alert networks the city has begun to invest in and the lack of robust language in the draft related to those efforts. Also missing were mention of plans to work with other cities and agencies to highlight technology and to participate in the across-the-board movement to use satellite-based systems for wildfire detection. He and other council members asked staff to amend the draft accordingly. Krispi said those types of efforts could fit into the framework of Lafayette staying on top of

wildfire issues, but staff advised not using detailed language about specific technology, which would allow for flexibility as new approaches and technologies develop.

Several questions pertained to maps and the specificity of earthquake fault lines and high fire hazard zones. Krispi and Cassidy said the maps are based on the best information available as of 2007 and people should always look for updates. Maps, zoning areas and regulations are often revised, as are policies for everything from ingress and egress evacuation routes to trees such as the Bay Laurel reclassified from "protected series" to "fire hazard" to the vulnerability of soft story or "up story" dwelling units located above parking spaces. Inspection schedules required of PG&E to ensure the safety of electrical and biohazard transport systems, Dawson suggested, also need to remain current and should be added to make sure the company is accountable and follows timelines.

Public comment had one resident encouraging council to consult with other cities about

the ways in which they have enhanced their cyber systems to prevent future attacks. Another speaker stressed the dangers of elevated carbon emissions and the importance of acknowledging the impact on public health and safety.

Council's discussion following public input included several amendments: adding mention of high wind and its importance when it comes to emergency situations in Lafayette, enacting various map modifications discussed, and making a clear statement about investing in early warning systems and partnering with other agencies to detect wildfire or similar risks. Clarification of the language related to ingress and egress evacuation routes, the vulnerability of groups in addition to aging (senior) populations, tree maintenance and defensible space enforcement, and cyber and other infrastructure and technology issues were requested by council.

The council (with Kwok participating remotely) voted unanimously to continue the matter as recommended to the Aug. 28 meeting.

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