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## Watch out for the Res Run



coming Sunday, Oct. 26. Look for for the longer races up and around the cute costumes, balloons, families, Lafayette Reservoir. music, dogs, pancakes and lots of vol- Lafayette Chamber of Commerce unteers downtown. Events start with website for all the details, the 2-mile Fun Run at 8 a.m., 5K at www.LafayetteChamber.org. Last 8:30 a.m., 10K at 8:45 a.m. and the minute entry on race day can be done first ever family bicycle ride to the at Citibank, 3528 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Veterans Memorial building will go at There will be plenty of free parking at 9:30 a.m. Police will be directing traf- BART. -C. Tyson

he semi-spooky, always perky fic along the route starting near Plaza Lafayette tradition is back this Park on Mt. Diablo Boulevard, and Visit the

## Residents Suggest Answers to Parking Woes at Workshop

By Cathy Tyson

Reaching out to drivers, property and business owners, city leaders requested suggestions about what to do about parking in the near term and also looking out five and 10 years in the future. Attendees had a robust discussion at this first in a series of downtown parking workshops designed to gather feedback from the community to address the situation. Available trations and traffic chokepoints parking will continue to diminish in Lafayette with the loss of 130 spaces at the privately owned lot behind Panda Express when the KB to give their top suggestions to solve Homes condominium project breaks ground on the site, along horizon at the end of the workshop. with now two-hour maximum parking at La Fiesta Square.

clarity on the issue. About a year ing with EBMUD, a phone app ago the Parking Ordinance Com- showing the location of available mittee was formed to look in a ho- parking, getting rid of the one listic way at the parking situation street space in front of Chow, and that plagues Lafayette's downtown. At the Art and Wine Festival an could be allowed on neighborhood array of comments to improve traffic and parking were received that ranged from the whimsical – a gondola to Moraga, to the practical – a parking garage on Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

"We want to know what you're thinking and get your reactions," said Parking Ordinance Committee nesses build underground parking. chairperson, and planning commissioner, Tom Chastain at the recent came up several times as a potential workshop held at the Methodist long-term solution, building below church. He went over the numbers to give attendees an overall picture of the parking situation, noting 10,539 on- and off-street parking spaces in the downtown area. Unfortunately many of those are in private lots and some are hidden from may come to fruition – after positive view, exacerbating the problem. Chastain recalled, "Twenty years ago you could park anywhere at any time."

Focusing on the downtown core exclusively, there are 5,400 on- and off-street parking spaces, about 30 percent of the on-street spaces are metered and about half of those have a two-hour time limit. Those figures, coupled with survey results from 2007 showing that 80 percent of employees park in the same lot as their businesses, and popular shops and restaurants with more and more customers, explain the crunch.

After a brief introduction about the goals of the meeting, context and business regulations, planning and building services director Niroop Srivatsa suggested focusing

discussion on managing existing parking more efficiently, with better information to drivers, ways to optimize underutilized lots, deal with employee parking, and options to create more parking.

Neighborly constructive conversations ensued at the 10 large tables; folks spoke freely, giving concrete examples of parking frusalong with pros, cons and logistics of each table's proposed solutions. The ad hoc table groups were asked or improve parking on each time

Short term solutions were all over the map, including the elimi-This isn't the first effort to get nation of BART poachers, partneremployee permit parking that

Medium term suggestions covered a wide range of possibilities: build a parking garage, have a shuttle or trolley running east to west along Mt. Diablo Boulevard to ferry employees from outlying parking, or have all new busi-

Increasing parking at BART grade or stacked parking, and providing a path under the freeway was suggested due to its central location and ability to partner with BART to possibly split the cost.

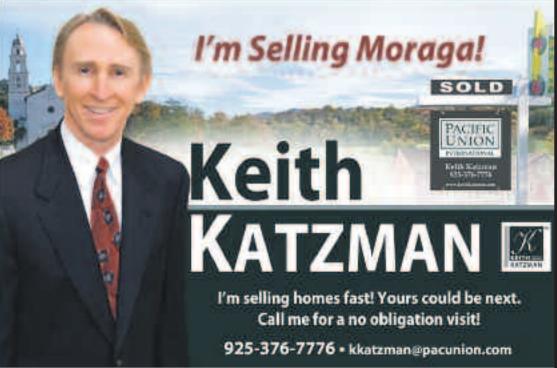
One of the short-term concepts response to presentations from Streetline and with significant financial incentive, the city may be ready to move forward with a smart parking system. The Foster City-based parking technology company proposed installing about 800 digital sensors in on-street parking stalls for a period of 10 years at no cost to the city. The Parking Ordinance Committee unanimously agreed that was worth pursuing.

Future workshops are planned focusing on the east and west ends of town. In case you missed this first workshop, comments and questions are still welcome at the city offices, (925) 284-1976. For more information, go to www.lovelafayette.org/downtownparking.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.

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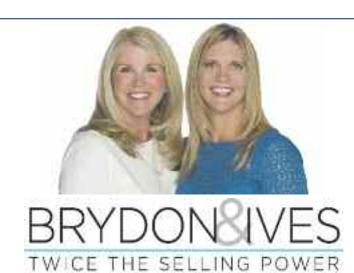
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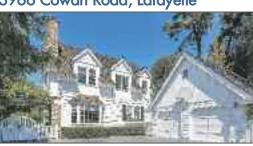
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