# **Prostitutes Arrested at** Lafayette Massage Parlors

By Cathy Tyson

esponding to citizen's complaints, Lafayette Police began an investigation into suspected sexual activity at two massage parlors: Body and Sole and Classic Music Massage - both on Mt. Diablo Boulevard. Vice, we follow the money -- the They found that all of the customers credit card transactions, the employee were men, and learned though interviews that many of the customers leaving the establishments were etcetera – with the goal to break the "gang members, convicted felons and other less than admirable characters," said Lafayette Police Chief Eric Christensen in the City Manager's Friday Summary.

cerns in February about activity they had observed. City officials responded by drafting an ordinance that specifically governs the operation of massage parlors, which was adopted May 29, to cut down alleged illegal activity. Prior to the new ordinance, massage parlors were loosely regulated in the personal services category.

On Wednesday, June 13, detectives from the Contra Costa Sheriff's Office and Lafayette police officers served search warrants at both locations. While the establishments may welcome ment at (925) 283-3680.

paying customers, authorities had to force entry. They found condoms, business records, money and customer lists suggesting sexual activity.

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"Like a bad cliché from Miami payroll, the owner's bank accounts, rent payments for the businesses, backs of these businesses and shut them down for good," said the Chief. "Wednesday's raids will probably not be the last we conduct."

Three individuals were arrested: Neighbors had voiced their con- 44-year old Li Liu of San Ramon for prostitution, 25-year old Yang (Jason) Chen of Pleasant Hill for pimping and conspiracy and 41-year-old Xiao Chen of Concord for prostitution. Two other women were questioned, but released after being interviewed.

> According to Sheriff's Department spokesperson Jimmy Lee, "The investigation into allegations of prostitution at some massage parlors in Lafayette is continuing." Anyone with additional information is asked to contact the Lafayette Police Depart-



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# **Art Installations Coming** to Downtown Projects

By Cathy Tyson

fter reviewing the resumes and larger project's building valuation. At works of five well-known public artists, the Lafayette Public Art Committee selected Roger Berry as their first choice to design a piece for the busy corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Pleasant Hill Road. A 24unit townhouse project was approved for what will be the former site of the Hungry Hunter restaurant.

Group, is required to pay for the public art to satisfy the Public Art Ordinance that is equal to one percent of a

a recent meeting of the City Council, both the recommended selections for the Signature Properties project and Merrill Gardens, noted below, were unanimously approved.

After getting the lay of the land and the look of the townhouses, Berry created and presented five ideas to the Public Art Committee back in May. The developer of the townhome With unanimous approval, they went project, Signature Development with a Corten steel sculpture called "Over Easy" and recommended the City Council approve it.

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# Police to Get New **Computers in Patrol Cars**

By Cathy Tyson

greatly improve the effectiveness of plete reports. police, allowing them to maximize

observe the impact of this upon the efficiency of the Police Departjob of communicating with other ment," said Christensen. He estiagencies, ultimately providing better mates that officers spend roughly 30 percent of their shift yo-yoing to a These productivity tools will call and back to the office to com-

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#### hat a difference a decade their time on the mean streets of makes. Because the 10- Lafayette. Now in order to write up year-old computers in police cars are a report, an officer has to leave the way past their prime, Lafayette Po-scene of an incident and return to the lice Chief Eric Christensen recently station to write up what happened. asked the City Council to release "Over the past two months, I have funds to upgrade technology for had the opportunity to personally

shiny, new Mobile Data Computers (MDC) that do a substantially better service to residents.

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