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Civic News Lafayette

Roundabout a Possibility Near the Gazebo

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He argues that a roundabout is more pedestrian friendly – providing an island to safely pause and landscaped medians instead of endless asphalt, adding that residents have complained about the many traffic signals up and down the Boulevard over the years.

The proposed roundabout would slow traffic down and narrow the approach on Mt. Diablo to one lane in each direction, but keep cars flowing. “The crossing serves as a linkage between the well-traveled Lafayette Moraga Trail to the south and the Briones Regional Trail to the north,” said Tony Coe, Engineering Services Manager, in a staff report presented at the July 9 meeting of the Circulation Commission.

A YouTube video was shown at the meeting of a roundabout in Glen Falls, New York, featuring a number of local shop owners commenting that they were against it at



Rendering of the intersection with cars and bus to scale, taken at the Lafayette City Offices by C. Tyson.

the start, but after construction residents and shop owners were pleasantly surprised at how well it worked.

If approved, the Lafayette roundabout would have a 20-foot

wide circulation lane around the donut plus a seven-foot wide truck apron to accommodate large vehicles. The proposal will be forwarded to the City Council in August.

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Hammering Away on Plaza Way Parking Solution

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Some property owners are clearly in favor of the Parking Overlay. The Poy family, owner of Squirrels, the dry cleaner and the former Handle Bar Toys, is poised to make investments in a historical facelift and supports the Overlay, as does the Park Theater Group, which is waiting on parking changes before they go forward with their potential lease to Fenton's.

However other property owners have reservations: the owner of the Campana building has expressed concerns, so has Bill McNeil, who owns the building containing Vino Restaurant and A Man's Choice Barber plus a du-

plex behind the commercial buildings. A number of ladies from the Assistance League of Diablo Valley were in attendance – the organization runs the Way-side Inn Thrift Shop – they have over 400 members and a Board of Directors that would need to buy into the concept.

Choosing to participate in the Plaza Way Overlay is optional, so no action is required of reticent property owners. City staff is working hard to finalize details of a Plaza Way Overlay property owner's agreement in order to present it to the City Council in September. The Poy family and the Park Theater Group can hardly wait.

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Transitional Kindergarten is Back On

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“Transitional kindergarten represents a great opportunity for these young students,” says Brill, noting that kindergarten has evolved to be a much more academic program over the past several years. Although the state has mandated that transitional kindergarten have a separate curriculum, the specific educational standards to be applied have not yet been determined. Currently Lafayette School District plans to incorporate transitional kindergarten students into

its regular kindergarten classrooms. Moraga will determine how to structure the transitional kindergarten program (as a single or combination class and at which schools), depending on the number of students that enroll.

“Our teachers are well versed in differentiation, and I am confident that the kindergarten teachers can integrate these younger students well,” says Brill adding, “We are excited to have this new cohort of students joining our schools.”

Considering a Run for Council?

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The other incumbents whose current terms will end this year are Mike Anderson and Carl Anduri in Lafayette; Howard Harpham, Karen Mendonca and Mike Metcalf in Moraga; and Steve Glazer and Victoria Smith in Orinda.

Requirements include being a registered voter in the community you wish to serve and a willingness to spend many evenings in service to your fellow citizens. Interested parties should contact the City/Town Clerk:

Lafayette City Clerk Joanne Robbins, (925) 284-1968

Moraga Town Clerk Marty McInturf, (925) 888-7022

Orinda City Clerk Michele Olsen, (925) 253-4221

To run or not to run, that is the question

Having been an active member of the community since moving to Lafayette 35 years ago, serving on the Parking Commission, Planning Commission and since 1999 on the City Council, Mayor Carol Federighi has decided not to run again. She'll finish out her third term as Mayor in December of this year.

“I have made the decision not to run for a fourth term in November. This decision was not an easy one. Serving on the Lafayette City Council has been extremely rewarding. I'm so fortunate to work closely with dedicated and very competent staff, fellow Council members, other Lafayette volunteers, and Council members from nearby communities. While I will miss this close involvement, I look forward to more personal time in 2013,” said Federighi in a statement. C. Tyson

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