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A few selections:

Beet Salad: fresh mint, tomato, golden raisins, goat cheese, herb vinaigrette...7

Sardines Insalata: calamata olives, green beans, potato, feta cheese, balsamic olive oil.....9

Niman Flat Iron Steak: potato gratin, green beans, chimichurri sauce.....18

Fresh Seafood Cioppino: in a rich tomato-basil sauce, parmesan, garlic toast..19

Roasted Scallops: spinach, saliccia sugo19

Roasted Wild Salmon: white wine, capers, braised greens, and potato gratin..17

Veal Scallopini: mushrooms, garlic, marsala wine17

3531 Plaza Way, Lafayette, (925) 284-1330
Open for dinner Wed. – Sat. 5 - 8:30 p.m.

Pair of Notable Upcoming Events

Identity Theft Town Hall

Who isn't concerned about identity theft? Find out how to protect yourself and best practices to avoid what can be a real expensive hassle at the free informative Town Hall Meeting at 7 p.m. Dec. 2 at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 3780 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, hosted by the Lafayette Crime Prevention Commission, the Lafayette Police Department and Lafayette Senior Services.

Lafayette Community Breakfast

Roughly a week before Thanks-

giving, on Friday, Nov. 20, community members can take time to reflect and give thanks at the annual Community Breakfast, sponsored by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. This year the event will be held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church at 1035 Carol Lane with breakfast catered by Dave's Cuisine. Keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. David Sammons who will discuss "Your resume versus your eulogy." To register, go to Lafayettechamber.org or call for more information (925) 284-7404.

C. Tyson

Downtown Congestion

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"The intent is to reduce downtown congestion, but also improve the overall quality of life in its broadest sense – safety, economic vitality, local character and environment." Arup is a global consultant group that specializes in infrastructure design, economics and planning.

Acknowledging there have been many studies in the past addressing traffic-related issues in Lafayette, Arup Senior Transportation Engineer Mike Iswalt said the key difference this time is new sources of big data that can specifically identify travel patterns – a critical factor to find tailored solutions. The study is funded by a grant from the Contra Costa Transportation Authority.

Recognizing there are no quick fixes, the Arup consultants will customize the wide-ranging study with input from the Downtown Congestion Reduction Steering Committee, feedback from an online survey, as well as GPS and cell phone information. Ultimately the consultant will identify feasible strategies and focus on implementation, which means finding funding.

The data allows the consultants to zero in on segments that are most congested, and analyze how the street network performs. Iswalt explained that Lafayette is a bit unusual in that there are three to four hours in the afternoon where the congestion is fairly constant – starting around 3 p.m., running until 6 p.m. "Congestion is something that we all dislike as it takes longer to travel places, which keeps us away from home, work, and the enjoyable things in life," wrote Iswalt in a memo for the Nov. 9 presentation.

One of the most surprising findings from the initial work done by the consultant is that 63 percent of the traffic is heading down Moraga Road toward Mt. Diablo Boulevard to Highway 24. "There is pressure at the Y," said Iswalt, referring to the path toward freeway onramps from Moraga

Road. Causes include the number of driveways to businesses and signalized intersections that add to backups.

Consultants are asking residents from throughout Lamorinda and beyond who happen to drive, bike or walk through Lafayette to be a part of the solution by going online to complete a short transportation priorities survey, and to take a moment to map issues and opportunities by dropping pins on a map and explaining briefly what the problem is at that particular location. These two information-gathering tools will be live for approximately the next five weeks at www.lafayettecongestion.com.

Baumgardner made it clear that the consultants understand that any recommendations will have to consider "the bang for the buck – benefits versus the cost and difficulty to implement."

There will be a second round of outreach in the spring that will focus on a short list of specific ideas gleaned from the first portion of the study that are the most promising.

Two public speakers added a somber note to the discussion. Stanley Middle School Principal David Schrag spoke for Lafayette School District Superintendent Rachel Zinn who was unavailable that night; he pointed out there have been three students hit by cars near the school in the last year and emphasized that safety be the top priority.

The mother of an 11-year-old boy who was hit by a car near Stanley on Oct. 29 asked, "What are we waiting for? The next child may not be so lucky." Council Member Traci Reilly pointed out there will be a meeting of the Joint City / School District Traffic and Safety Task Force on Nov. 16 that will discuss this item.

To view the entire Arup presentation, go to www.lovelafayette.com, click on public meetings and go to the Nov. 9 city council meeting, and scroll down to read the attachment.

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