-C. Tyson

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## **Rock the Plaza Summer Concerts Return Friday**

afayette's favorite block party is back every Friday during the month of June at Plaza Park on the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road with a lineup of free family friendly evening concerts. Mark your calendars, bring the kids, dog and a picnic or support local establishments by purchasing dinner fixin's from nearby grocery stores and restaurants.

- Kicking off the fun is the Allmond Brothers, a popular tribute band that plays covers of the similarly named Allman Brothers band on Friday, June 3.
- "Ticket to Ride" a Beatles tribute band, plays on Friday, June 10.
- "The Big Jangle," a local band dedicated to playing Tom Petty tunes, plays on Friday, June 17.
- Wrapping up the series is the 2016 Lamorinda Idol Finalists on Friday, June 24.

All of the concerts start at 6:30 p.m.

**Downtown to See More** Meters, Less Free Parking

By Cathy Tyson



Sweeping parking changes re- will continue to be free. cently adopted by Lafayette city leaders also decreased the cost of fayette Circle from Mt. Diablo to parking at one lot, and will stage Hough Avenue will also see new a trial run to give preference to lo- two-hour maximum parking meters cal cars near BART. Although free at 24 spaces, to discourage employparking can be found on a Monopoly board, it's becoming increasing- used these free street spaces since ly rare downtown, for the simple reason that free parking encourages drivers to leave their cars all day long, locking up spots that could be spaces, moving their vehicles only used by multiple vehicles.

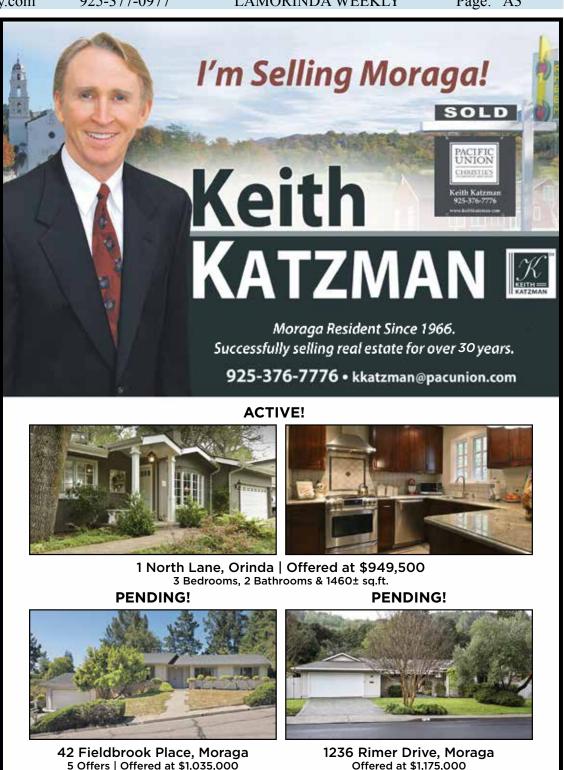
Tasked with finding actions to marks on tires.

Photo Cathy Tyson rivers, brace yourselves for turnover of heavily used spots by more parking meters, as rates the library; the eastern end of the for many previously free on-street street will remain unmetered. Meparking options will now have hun- ters will cost \$1 per hour and be engry meters standing at attention, forced from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., while ready for your credit card or coins. parking within the library structure

PACIFIC UNION

CHRISTIE'S

The eastern portion of Laee parking there. Many employees the privately owned La Fiesta lot became metered. Police observed that some drivers abuse the timed a few feet to foil enforcement chalk



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immediately improve the parking situation, the Parking Ordinance Committee has worked with the Chief of Police to find ways to improve the use and efficiency and encourage turnover of existing public parking spaces downtown.

suggestions were approved by the city council, with just one exception. Installing parking meters on Carol Lane is slated for further study. Council members hesitated to adopt changes that would affect mainly used by employees of nearby businesses.

Jesse Wellen, longtime owner of the Lafayette Car Wash on the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Carol Lane, acknowledged that meters are necessary for turnover; however he estimates there are many employees of various businesses in the area, and existing adequate customer parking at Ace Hardware. He feels installing the workers.

at the city-owned lot directly across the street from Lafayette Elemen-It was \$5 per day, and will be \$2 changes take effect sometime this summer. The gravel lot used to be \$5, the occupancy rates fell considerably, an indication that it was too expensive. Because of its location, this lot is intended to serve downtown employees and carpoolers.

ing to 24 previously free spaces on Golden Gate Way to encourage

It will soon cost \$5 per day for long-term parking on Dolores Drive. Currently the 15 on-street spaces are unregulated and are used by BART patrons and local store employees. Nearby Via Roble will have signage posted on All of the committee's concrete the lower section limiting parking to two hours. This move is being made to deter long term parkers in the residential area, and allow the use of spaces by residents and their guests.

Also in response to pressure the 26 on-street spaces which are of BART parkers, and to benefit Lafayette residents, a six-month test period for 40 street spaces on Happy Valley Road, from the freeway to Deer Hill Road, will be reserved for Lafayette residents and marked with Permit Parking Only signs. These spaces will be on a first come, first served basis. Residents will have to register their car license plates in order to obtain a permit; police will be checking the cars parked in this designated area meters on Carol Lane would create to verify the vehicle belongs to a loa "financial hardship" for many of cal. Meter fees still need to be paid.

This program may take a little It wasn't all bad news: parking longer to implement said Planning and Building Services Director Niroop Srivatsa, since the city will tary School will soon be cheaper. have to get the word out to residents who will then need to register per day, once the official parking their cars, but it should be up and running later this summer.

Other changes include estabfree, but when the rate went up to lishing a \$1 minimum meter credit card payment, since service charges eat up \$.40 of every credit card transaction. The parking ordinance committee will also work with existing banks and other businesses Parking meters will be com- to allow public parking use of their lots after business hours.

... continued on page A12



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