

Karina Garcia

From: Josette Brose-Eichar <josette@lavenderfloral.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 8:40 AM
To: Karina Garcia; Susan Gorin
Subject: Springs Merchant Parking
Attachments: Springs businesses.docx

EXTERNAL

Hi Karina and Supervisor Gorin,

Karina can you please forward this to the Springs MAC. I have done my best to sum up below what I have observed in regards to parking for merchants along Highway 12 in the Springs. I may have missed some businesses, but I tried my best to find and list them all. I am attaching a list of merchants, with location and what I observed as available parking.

Thank you and sincerely,

Josette Brose-Eichar

February 9, 2023

Dear Supervisor Gorin and Springs MAC Members,

Last night at the Springs MAC meeting I spoke about parking for Springs Businesses, along Highway 12. I did an informal study, where I just walked the area and noted the parking each business had. I also noted that some businesses have ample parking, and it was not full. I know the idea of sharing, seems difficult, but if we are truly a community, then I believe we can work together to do what is best for our entire community and not just do what is most advantageous to us as individuals or for our own businesses.

While out for dinner at Glen Ellen Star, we saw that the Garden Café across the street lets Glen Ellen Star's dinners use their parking lot, as they are not open in the evening. It may be that they have a monetary agreement, but in any case it works well. Maybe this is something a parking district could facilitate, if some business owners feel there should be monetary compensation for sharing parking.

I noted that many businesses may have enough parking for their customers, but not for employees. So in doing sharing for employees, maybe stickers could be used, so that businesses can agree to numbers and be able to confirm that it is just employees parked in the surplus spaces.

Also of note is the issue of residential parking. Having lived in the Springs for over 20 years, I have had lots of time on my neighborhood walks to observe residential parking. In parts of the Springs built earliest, and closer to Highway 12, the houses are older and have much less on property parking than newer homes farther away from Highway 12. Many properties have lots of cars. Some homes have 4, 5 and even 6 vehicles. Our rental property closer to Highway 12, built in 1951 has a narrow driveway that only one very small car can fit in. There are two wide spaces off the road in front for additional parking. Our own home farther up the hill has space for three vehicles, on the property. Due to the history of the Springs and the fact that much of it was a built as a resort area of cottages, served by a train, I do not think the county can really take on the issue of residential parking, and should concentrate on parking for merchants at this time.

Sometimes we think only in terms of profit when it comes to development. I believe there are ways we can get things done without spending lots of money and not always looking for personal monetary gain in every development plan or idea.

I also want to note that in reality, an underground garage at the Post Office site would have provided very little extra parking. With ramps to enter and leave there would have been only a very small amount of parking created. In fact it would have been less than there is now.

Even though I run two small businesses and feel working with Wake Up Sonoma is important right now, I truly want to work with this MAC to engage this community on creating a plaza or gathering space and getting something done on the issue of parking for merchants and their employees.

Sincerely,

Josette Brose-Eichar

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Boyes Hot Springs

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