

From: Carol Stoker
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2021 6:02 PM
To: Council <Council@losgatosca.gov>
Subject: Comment on Closure of Pacific Avenue

I wish to comment on the events of this summer on Pacific Avenue. I thought that the thursday afternoon events on Pacific Avenue were a wonderful way to celebrate the summer and get over the COVID shutdown blues. It was a huge success! I would like the town council to consider making Pacific Avenue, in the section that was closed, a pedestrian only corridor. In Boulder Colorado in the 1980s a section of Pearl Street also in the center of town was closed to vehicle traffic. What resulted was a full time entertainment center as a variety of performers such as jugglers, musicians, magicians, dancers and all kinds of entertainers came there to play for tips, and this entertainment drew crowds of people. I was in college at the time and knew people who paid their way through school by performing in the pedestrian mall. This type of thing will cause a downtown economic boom for the businesses on the street and, because it is outdoors, it is a very safe way to socialize with low risk from COVID infection. As another advantage, restaurants can permanently have outdoor seating on the sidewalks. Most cities in Europe have car-free downtown areas and limit traffic to only permitted vehicles such as those that service the restaurants, emergency vehicles, etc.. As a result, there is always something interesting going on in the pedestrian areas. I am certain this would pay for itself. During the road closure with live music, I witnessed several disabled people in wheelchairs enjoying the activities. I hope that the City Council will discuss how to leverage the success of this summer's experiment in street closure to create a more fun and lively area in our town.

Cordially,
Carol Stoker Redwood Estates/ Los Gatos CA.