

Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Lafayette

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Monday, Mar 26	
Monday, Apr 9	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Thursday, Mar 15	
Thursday, Apr 5	
Design Review	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Tuesday, Mar 20	
Tuesday, Apr 10	
Park, Trails, Rec.	7pm
Community Center 500 St Mary's Road	
Wednesday, Mar 14	
Wednesday, Apr 11	
Circulation	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Monday, Mar 19	
Tuesday, Apr 3	
Emergency Prep.	9:15am
City Offices 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite 265	
Wednesday, Mar 14	
Wednesday, Apr 11	
Senior Services	4pm
Community Center, Alder Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Thursday, Mar 22	
Thursday, Apr 26	
Youth Services	6pm
Community Center, Elderberry Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Monday, Apr 9	

check online:
Town of Lafayette:
<http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us>
 for:
 • all meeting notes
 • calendar updates

Chamber of Commerce:
<http://www.lafayettechamber.org>
 for:
 • local businesses
 • upcoming events

Agendas: City Council, and Commissions
City of Lafayette, Public Meeting Agenda (Partial) Planning Commission Meeting Thursday March 15, 2007, 7:00PM Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road, Manzanita Room
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS
5. CONSENT CALENDAR
A. MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 19, 2006 Recommendation: Approve
6. CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARINGS (Est. start time: 7:00 pm*)
A. HDP69-06 JOHN HEWATT (APPLICANT & OWNER), LR-5 ZONING
B. MS504-87CCII – ROBIN AND KRIS LEAMY (APPLICANTS & OWNERS), R-40 ZONING
C. HDP81-06 STEVE WISENBAKER, AIA (APPLICANT), BRUCE FONAROW (OWNER), R-20 ZONING
D. L03-06 CINGULAR WIRELESS (APPLICANT), NISHA & JASBIR SINGH & PG&E (OWNERS), R-20 ZONING
E. GP01-05 / RZ01-05 BRUCE TORQUEMADA, LAFAYETTE PROPERTIES, (APPLICANT & OWNER), R-15 ZONING
7. NEW PUBLIC HEARINGS (Est. start time: 10:00 pm*)
A. L04-06 & HDP65-06 COAST RADIO (APPLICANT), GEORGE MOORE (OWNER), LR-10 ZONING .
B. HDP80-06 LAZAR LANDSCAPE (APPLICANT), LAWRENCE & JOAN FOX (OWNERS), R-10 ZONING
8. OTHER BUSINESS (Estimated start time: 10:45 pm*)
A. ELECTION OF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR FOR 2007
9. COMMISSIONERS' ACTIVITY REPORT
10. PLANNING MANAGER'S REPORT

City of Lafayette, Public Meeting Agenda (Partial) Park, Trails and Rec Wednesday March 14, 2007, 7:00PM Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road
4.PUBLIC COMMENTS
5.CONSENT CALENDAR (Estimated 7:00 PM*)
A.MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 15, 2007 Recommendation: Approve
B. ZT01-07 Amending Chapter 6-25 of the Lafayette Municipal Code pertaining to the regulation of signs within the City of Lafayette Recommendation: Adopt Planning Commission Resolution 2007-07, forwarding a recommendation of approval to the City Council. Project Planner: Niroop K. Srivatsa, Tel (925) 299-3206, nsrivatsa@lovelafayette.org, and Michael Cass, Tel (925)299-3219, mcass@lovelafayette.org
C.DR50-06 POLYTECH ASSOCIATES, INC. (APPLICANT), LAFAYETTE RESIDENTIAL PARTNERS, LLC (OWNER), P-1 ZONING: Request for approval of the final development plans for the third phase of Lafayette Town Center. The final plans, which are consistent with the approved preliminary planned unit development, call for a 25,817 26,851 square-foot, three-story office building and a two-story parking garage for 100 104 vehicles. APN 243-040-035. Recommendation: Adopt Resolution 2007-10 approving the application with conditions. Project Planner: Niroop K. Srivatsa, Tel (925) 299-3206, nsrivatsa@lovelafayette.org

Both Sides Rally at Lafayette Crosses

by Sophie Braccini

At about 9:30 on Thursday morning, the Lafayette Flag Brigade prepared to welcome "These Colors Don't Run," a caravan of about 20 cars, trucks, motorbikes, and motor homes to the City of Lafayette. The caravan was organized by Move America Forward (M.A.F.), a pro-troop, pro-war movement

this site because of its familiarity to people, we don't approve of it, it's disrespectful, period." Bryan added, "We came here to show our support to our troops, to gather words of positive encouragement and present it to our soldiers.

At the same time, about two dozen supporters of "The Crosses" stood on the

words. M. Crowley, father of Marine Lance Corporal Kyle D. Crowley who died in Iraq, accused the supporters of the memorial of having "no right to put our son's name here, you have the right to protest the war, but you can't disgrace our troops and use the names of fallen soldiers." The gold star father was carrying a



Photos by Lisa Duncan

led by Deborah Johns, the mother of Sergeant William Johns who is stationed in Iraq. The gathering point in Lafayette was across the street from the Lafayette BART station, where the Mount Diablo Peace Group has erected an anti-war memorial to soldiers killed in Iraq. The privately-owned hillside is covered with crosses, one now for each soldier killed in Iraq. The display of crosses has attracted a great deal of local

hillside. They carried American flags and signs like "Peace is a family value." Bob Hanson, who was instrumental in the construction of the memorial, commented, "We decided to avoid confrontation, treating it as a non-event, not wanting to rally thousands here today. We are rallying in Walnut Creek on the 17th for our Starve the War and Feed the Peace action." At about 10:00 A.M. the caravan arrived.

portrait of his son as well as the sign with his son's name that had previously hung on one of the crosses on the hill.

Louise Clark, the tall, frail woman who owns the land on which the memorial sits, was not afraid to mingle with the pro-war crowd on the curb and she engaged in an argument with Sherry Prussian and other supporters. "These are all my children," said Mrs. Clark talking about the crosses, "I don't want any more of our young people to die over there." For a moment, a casual observer might have been totally unaware of the mutual antagonism of the two groups as they both sang "God bless America" in unison. Before beginning the next leg of their trip to Vacaville on their way to Sacramento, organizers assured the crowd that they would remind their representatives in Washington that the soldiers were fighting for our freedom and needed continued financial support. The caravan plans to cross the United States to gather support for the troops and reach Washington D.C. on Sunday March 17th, for the "Gathering of the Eagles."

Sophie Braccini lives in Moraga with her husband and three children. She's a contributing editor to Lamorinda Weekly. Reach her at sophie@lamorindaweekly.com



and national media attention and is thought to be the largest of its kind in the United States. Some 250 people, carrying American flags of all sizes, stretched along the sidewalk waiting for the caravan to arrive. Among the supporters was Sherry Perussina whose sign read, "This hillside brought to you by leftist bigots." Bryan Walden, a member of the Lafayette Flag Brigade explained, "We only picked

A member of the Lafayette Flag Brigade sent her message loud and clear through her microphone: "We love America, we love our troops and we want them to come home when the job is done!" An anonymous Vietnam Veteran from Saratoga added, "We thank our soldiers for the job they are doing there, so we don't have to fight on our land." On occasion, the two groups did exchange a few harsh

New Library Funding Plan

The Lafayette Redevelopment Agency and the non-profit Lafayette Community Foundation announced on Monday a comprehensive funding plan that would not only pay to build the \$43.3 million Lafayette Library and Learning Center but also provide ongoing funding to operate the new facility for at least thirty years.

The first step and cornerstone of the unusual plan involves a \$9 million loan from the Community Foundation to the Lafayette Redevelopment Agency. This loan, when combined with \$11.9 million in State funding and \$22.4 million from the Redevelopment Agency, provides all the funding required to complete development of the impressive stone, glass, and wood building that will be located at the corner of Mt. Diablo Blvd. and First Street.

Once the project is completed, the Redevelopment Agency will repay, over time,

the loan principal plus a reasonable rate of interest to the Foundation. In total, the Agency will repay an estimated \$29 million in principal and interest to the Foundation over approximately 30 years.

But that's not all. The Foundation will, in turn, contribute the funds received from this loan repayment – along with other funds that it collects – to support operations, maintenance, and programs at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. With existing flows of City and County funds included, the combined revenues should be sufficient to keep the new facility open for 40 hours per week for the next three decades.

City Manager Steve Falk, who put the plan together, describes this funding model as unique. Falk confirmed that it is made possible only by the generosity of more than 2,000 Lafayette households that have thus far con-

tributed approximately \$12.5 million to the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

Groundbreaking for the new Lafayette Library and Learning Center will take place on April 20th at 4:00 P.M. The project is expected to be completed and doors opened in Spring, 2009. Moving Ahead...

This news comes not long after the announcement that a construction contract was awarded to C. Overaa and Company in the amount of \$29,490,000 to use in the base project specifications of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. C. Overaa and Co. also built the Orinda Library, Livermore Civic Center Library, Lindsay Wildlife Museum and soon to be completed Lafayette Mercantile complex, who's Yankee Pier Restaurant was recently approved for occupant improvements to its 3,000 square-foot location.

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Road and Drain Parcel Tax

On February 26th, the City adopted resolution 2007-12, endorsing the 2007 Road and Drain Parcel Tax Measure.

From potholes to cracked streets, road damages remain a huge prob-

lem for the citizens of Lafayette. The challenge, however, remains in drafting a measure that will appeal to voters. Many options have been thrown around, such as a utility or sales tax, but the council has finally decided on a parcel tax.

In 1995, the City paid a \$13 million bond to repair drains as well as

thoroughfares, but not residential roads. Then in 2003, as well as 2005, surveys held by the City indicated that a road measure would fail regardless of the form of taxation.

The measure was handed down with a 3-0-2 vote at the local town council meeting.

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