

Lamorinda Community,

Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Calendar

City Council	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room	
500 St Mary's Road	
Monday, Apr 9	
Monday, Apr 23	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room	
500 St Mary's Road	
Thursday, Apr 5	
Thursday, Apr 19	
Design Review	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room	
500 St Mary's Road	
Tuesday, Apr 10	
Tuesday, Apr 24	
Park, Trails, Rec.	7pm
Community Center	
500 St Mary's Road	
Wednesday, April 11	
Wednesday, May 9	
Circulation	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room	
500 St Mary's Road	
Monday, Apr 3	
Tuesday, Apr 16	
Emergency Prep.	9:15am
City Offices	
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite 265	
Wednesday, Apr 11	
Senior Services	4pm
Community Center, Alder Room	
500 St Mary's Road	
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
• upcomming events

Roadwork Notice: Happy Valley Road
The East Bay Municipal Utility District will be installing a new transmission water main along a portion of the Lafayette Aqueduct right-of-way and along a portion of Happy Valley Road in Lafayette. Work in the street will occur on Happy Valley Road from the intersection with the aqueduct right-of-way (near the freeway/BART overpass) to a point south of Crestmont Drive. When EBMUD work is completed, the City of Lafayette will resurface Happy Valley Road.

The project is scheduled to begin the first week of April and to be completed by the end of June. Work hours will be 9:00am to 6:00pm for work north of the intersection of Happy Valley Road and Deer Hill Road. Work within that intersection and between Mt. Diablo Blvd and Deer Hill Road will be limited to between 9:00am and 4:30pm.

Traffic will be reduced to one-way for short distances. Traffic controls will be provided, but residents and commuters can expect some delays. For more information call Nora Harlow, EBMUD Community Affairs (510) 287-0140.

Students Threatened; Suspect Arrested

By Lee Borrowman

Lafayette Police have made an arrest in a case involving two students who were threatened by a young man wielding a realistic-looking weapon while they were waiting to be picked up from school on March 16.

According to Police Chief Mike Fisher, the students were in the vicinity of Brook St. and Moraga Rd. when a car with two men inside drove up. The driver flashed a rude gesture at the students, an 11-year old girl and a 12-year-old boy, and several of their friends. A passenger in the front seat of

the car waved a weapon that was similar in appearance to a 45-caliber handgun. The man said to the children, "Can I play, I will kill you!" Witnesses were able to give police a description of the suspects and of the car, an older model blue Mercedes, and a local parent reported that the car had frequently been seen parked nearby.

Armed with that information, Lafayette Police were vigilant in patrolling the area. On the afternoon of March 22, an officer spotted and stopped the car on Moraga Rd. The

driver fit the description of one of the suspects, and a search of the vehicle revealed a CO2 powered BB gun, replica of a 45-caliber automatic handgun and a high-tech paint ball gun. The man admitted brandishing the BB gun at the children and was arrested.

When contacted for comment on March 23, administrators at nearby Stanley Middle School and Lafayette Elementary School said they had not been informed of this incident.

Got Boules?

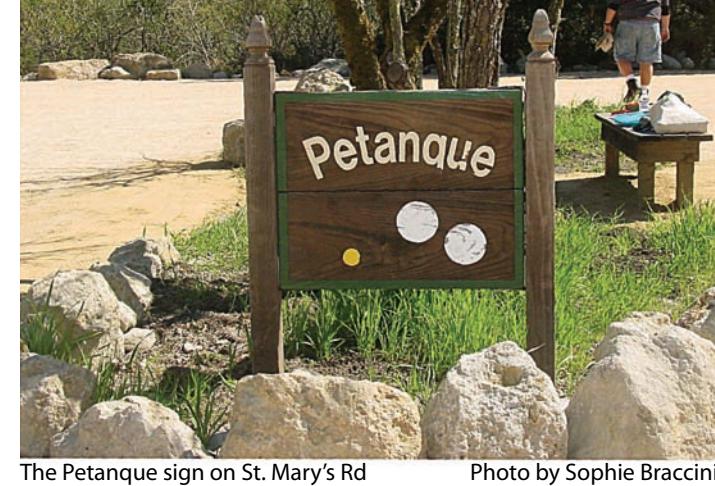
By Sophie Braccini

In my little village of Le Brocq, in Provence, all afternoons end with a game of pétanque. In the village square, shaded by ancient Platens, people of all ages mingle for a game and to share a drink in the nearby café. Now, back home in my village of Lamorinda, driving South on Saint Mary's road, after the Lafayette Community Center, I see a sign worth noticing: "Pétanque." No cafés or restaurants offering Pastis, no Mediterranean sea to frame the background, but a neat and shady ancient pear orchard with pétanque alleys covered in sand. Has a part of Provence moved to Lamorinda?

Ask Mary Albright, the President of the Lamorinda Pétanque Club, one of 5 in the Bay area, where aficionados meet once or twice a week to practice their favorite sport. Are these Pétanque aficionado's all French natives transplanted in the US? "Not at all," says Albright, "They're local residents from all walks of life including Americans, Scots,

metal balls ("boules" pronounced "bull") and a small cochonnet (piglet), made of wood. In the US the cochonnet is called a jack. A player throws the jack a distance of 12 to 30 feet from the throwing position.

Pétanque players tend to like their field rough, so it's a harder to predict how your boule will behave once it



The Petanque sign on St. Mary's Rd hits the ground. Players want to get their boules as close as possible to the jack. Different techniques can be used to win: you can "pointer," or aim gently for the jack, or "tire" and hit and displace the opposing team's boules.

Combine precision and



Andrea Lucacher gets her next boule while her team mates check who's in the

has a strong competitive core. Pascal, who organizes clinics, has been the US pétanque champion on several occasions.

Last year, the Pétanque Club's old practice field became unavailable and a new field had to be found. Greg Arthur, a pétanque player and landscape architect was inspired when he spotted an un-

Photo by Sophie Braccini
used piece of land scheduled to become an overflow parking area. For Greg the game is about creating a sense of community: "Communities like ours need more places where people can connect" says the architect. "This place, by trails and parks, is ideally located so

Goodbye, Chief!

By Lee Borrowman

...continued from Page 1

Fisher has used the funds to upgrade the Department's equipment, purchasing high-tech shields and on-board computers with GPS units for the patrol cars which "will improve efficiency, especially at night. Some parts of Lafayette are difficult to navigate in the dark."

Fisher's biggest disappointment came when Measure P, the Police Services Parcel Tax of the 2006 election, did not get the 2/3 vote required for approval. The parcel tax would have provided funding for more patrol officers and the narcotics officer that Fisher felt would have been invaluable.

When asked what he plans to do on the first morning that he doesn't have to don the uniform and strap on the gun, Fisher replied, "Sleep in, of course!" Beyond that, Fisher says, "I'll probably do something else at some point, but I don't know what or where. I'll start by spending some time fishing and hanging out with my daughter."

Accident Spurs Action

By Lee Borrowman

The third in a string of fatal automobile accidents in Lamorinda has prompted action. Lafayette City Manager Steve Falk said that Mayor Carol Federighi and new Police Chief Mike Hubbard plan to work with their counterparts in nearby towns to develop strategies for bringing speeds down throughout the area. A group of Acalanes parents has also mobilized to launch a Slow Down campaign on the streets near Acalanes High School.

Lafayette Police are continuing to investigate the accident and the driver of the BMW, reported to be 38-year-old Walnut Creek man

Lafayette

Here's what we heard about

Chief Fisher:

City Manager Steve Falk: "Mike Fisher has done an outstanding job for Lafayette. I will remember him for his integrity, his work ethic, and his total calm in the face of any storm. He has my thanks and appreciation."

Sergeant Roxane Gruenheid:

"I have really enjoyed working with Chief Fisher. Under his command, the Lafayette Police Department has run smoothly. I have learned a great deal from him. Many of us feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to have worked with him."

Community Service Officer Cathy Surges-Moscato:

"Chief Fisher is one of those people that you never want to retire and wish you could clone. He gets along with everyone and has such a great personality you just can't help but like him."

Everyone we spoke to said of the Chief, "He will be missed."

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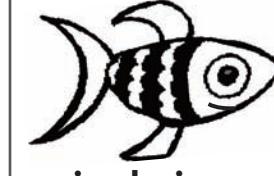
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