

Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Lafayette

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, Apr 11 Wednesday, May 9	
Circulation	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road 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 • upcoming events	

Senior Transportation Program Stands Out

By Lee Borrowman
The successful Lamorinda Senior Transportation Program has been described as community based, innovative and resourceful. It has become a role model in the senior transportation industry. This program, which serves the close to 10,000 Lamorindans who are 65 or older, is shaped by three interdependent components: a 20% discount taxi service offered by Contra Costa Yellow Cab & DeSoto company for Lamorinda seniors, a volunteer driver program provided both through Senior Helpline Services "Rides for Seniors" program and Seniors Around Town targeting Orindans, and a ten passenger van service (dubbed Lamorinda Spirit) with wheel chair lift man-

aged by Lafayette Senior Services. The van serves not only older adults but any persons with disabilities. Lafayette Senior Services coordinator Mei Sun Li says, "The support of the City of Lafayette, including the City Council, Mayor Federighi, former Mayor Carl Andruri and Jay Lifson of the Chamber of

Commerce, as well as from the East Bay Community Foundation and Supervisor Gayle Uilkema has been vital to the success of the program." The Moraga and Orinda city councils have also officially endorsed the project, and it is hoped that the tri-city relationship will continue to grow.

As of year-end 2006, with seven months of expenses under the belt, the Lamorinda Spirit van had logged close to 800 rides with the focus on taking ADA/LINK eligible passengers to a lunch program in Walnut Creek.

The launch of Errand Day last November, which provides door-to-door transportation to grocery stores, drug stores and medical appointments, has garnered praise from local seniors: "I really depend on the van and enjoy riding it. I don't know what we would do without it," said one 90-year-old resident of Lafayette. A rider from Moraga said, "I think Errand Day is a wonderful service. It's a godsend to me as I'm housebound without it." And everyone loves driver Eddie Carvalho, who assists his passengers to and from the van, carries groceries, and treats each rider with courtesy and kindness.



Lamorinda Spirit Van. From left to right: Susan Hahn, Lafayette Senior Services Commission Chair; (on lift) - Muriel Manus Lamorinda Spirit Van Rider and Volunteer; Malcolm Hendry Lamorinda Spirit Van Volunteer Driver; Gayle Uilkema District Supervisor

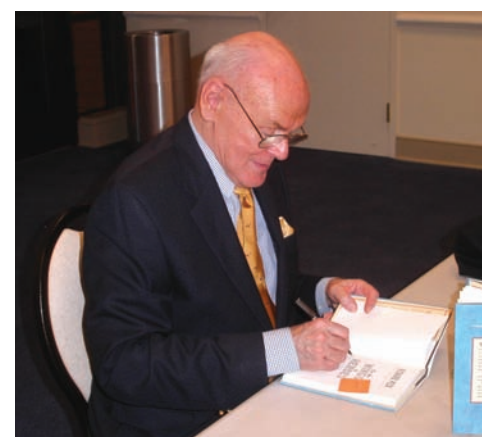
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Richard Peck Event

By Sarah Henningsen
With his newest novel On the Wings of Heroes gracing children's bestseller lists, author Richard Peck is riding on literary success yet again. On March 26th, Newbery medal winner Richard Peck came to Lamorinda as part of his coast to coast tour, giving a speech and signing books at Temple Isaiah in an event that raised money for the Storyteller Bookstore and the Lafayette Library.

In his neighborhood, an endeavor that introduces him to many unique characters and important life lessons. The story is based loosely upon Peck's own boyhood. As Peck iterated in his speech, "I lived a red, white, and blue childhood of saving stamps, ration books, and 'loose lips sink ships'. We snooped around and called it patriotism. Today, I still snoop and call it research." Although he drew somewhat from personal experiences, Richard Peck's impeccable research about World War II manifested itself in this great new work.

Following Peck's humorous and inspiring speech, audience members could purchase On the Wings of Heroes as well as other notable titles like A Long Way From Chicago and A Year Down Yonder. A percentage of the proceeds from the books sold at Monday's event will be split between the Storyteller Bookstore and the Lafayette Library. Both institutions work tirelessly to support



Richard Peck

literacy and reading skills among Lamorinda's youth, through the Tuesday Child author series that organized Richard Peck's visit and through various other events during the year. The event itself was more than just a general speech and subsequent book signing. Musical trio Bob Sutherland, Don Hall, and Stewart Yasaki provided quality entertainment from the war era as audience members filtered into the social hall. Several local veterans—Blaine and Muriel Snow, Floyd Pickett, William Harbin, and Jack de Leeuw—shared their war stories and photos with children and parents alike. At yet another station in Temple Isaiah's expansive room, individuals were given the opportunity to decorate and write letters to troops which Campolindo student Justin Batcheller is collecting for his Eagle Scout project.

Linda Higham, owner of The Storyteller in Lafayette, expressed her thoughts on the evening: "The main objective of Tuesday's Child is to bring families together to promote interest in books. In that sense, the event was very successful."

Parking Meters May Proliferate, But Just a Bit

By Lee Borrowman
In an effort to secure permanent on-going funding to pay for the City of Lafayette's Code Enforcement Officer, the Parking Meter Task Force is preparing to recommend the installation of additional parking meters in the downtown -Mt Diablo Blvd. corridor.

In response to requests from homeowners, the City Council last year decided to employ a full-time code enforcement officer. At the time the decision was made, the Council was advised that they would need to increase parking revenues in order to provide a source of funds from which to support this service. An increase in the parking meter rates from \$.50 to \$1.00 per hour went into effect this

spring. According to Administrative Services Director Tracy Robinson, "The Task Force determined that the city could potentially place an additional 470 parking meters, but will probably recommend to the City Council in May the installation of only 92 new meters."

The function of the code enforcement officer is to enforce Lafayette Municipal Code, particularly as it relates to land use and property maintenance. The code enforcement officer concentrates on the investigation and abatement of complaints involving general land use (existing structures), housing conditions, abandoned vehicles, signs, fences and general public nuisances.

Robinson says the city is also considering alternatives to rows of single- or double-space meters for any new installations, and may pilot the use of parking kiosks that accept credit cards, similar to those that are currently found in nearby communities. "Kiosks reduce visual clutter and make access easier for those with disabilities," she said.

New rates and prospective new meters will not have an impact on the parking revenue that is currently being set aside to fund the city's long-planned public parking facility. "We are trying to find an appropriate place to provide public parking. We've not been able to locate a suitable property, and the cost of new construction is very high," says Robinson.

Going Out in a Blaze of Glory

By Lee Borrowman
If you don't have children, or the time to explore curiosities, you may never have walked through the door of Action & Adventure on Mt. Diablo Blvd. For ten happy years, Peter Grubbs and his faithful sidekick Ralph the Dog have, in Grubbs' words, "Made a small living but a big impression," from the little shop that's bursting with an eclectic assortment of comics

A self-described "compulsive shopper" and collector of tropical fish, Grubbs enjoys forays to the flea market in search of unusual items, and has been happy running his business. "I'd love to be able to stay here," says Grubbs. "The community has been very supportive, and several people have offered to help find a new location for the store." Business has picked



Peter Grubbs



and collectibles. Unfortunately, the end may be near for the dynamic duo.

Grubbs is finding it difficult to keep up with the cost of doing business, with lease payments on the property being a significant factor. His small business has provided something less than a modest income, and he faces strong competition from on-line vendors who now dominate this niche in the market. He has given notice to the property owner that he cannot "re-up for another five years."

up a bit since customers became aware that Grubbs will be leaving. He plans to keep the store open as long as possible, and has been negotiating accordingly with the property owner. There many kids, and kids-at-heart, in Lamorinda who hope that Peter Grubbs and Ralph the Dog can continue their adventure.

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