

Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Lafayette

Calendar	
City Council 7pm Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Monday, June 11	
Planning Comm. 7pm Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, June 7	
Design Review 7pm Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Tuesday, June 12	
Park, Trails, Rec. 7pm Community Center 500 St Mary's Road Wednesday, June 13	
Circulation 7pm Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Monday, June 4	
Emergency Prep. 9:15am City Offices 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite 265 Wednesday, June 13	
Senior Services 4pm Community Center, Alder Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, June 28	
Youth Services 6pm Community Center, Elderberry Room 500 St Mary's Road Monday, June 11	

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

Lafayette Road Work

By Lee Borrowman

The City of Lafayette is completing its annual slurry seal of selected road surfaces. The sealant is applied to roads to prevent water from penetrating through the cracks, thereby extending the useful life of roads that are otherwise in relatively good condition. City staff report that they received several letters from curious residents who wondered whether this work was related to the upcoming ballot Measure C, which would institute a 30-year parcel tax to provide additional funding to repair or replace some of Lafayette's decaying roadways.

City Manager Steve Falk explains, "We have two types of roads that are in need of repair. There are the roads that are so old and damaged that they have to be completely torn up and replaced," as with the roads that would receive such treatment should Measure C succeed on June 5, "and then there are the roads which, with a little preventive maintenance, such as slurry seals, can last for many more years." Falk says that these routine measures are, "the most efficient way to spend the taxpayers' money."

Funding for the slurry seal project comes each year from the city's General Fund, from which \$1 million is appropriated annually for the road and drain maintenance program. Opponents of

the proposed parcel tax argue that taxpayers should not bear the burden of funding the more extensive repairs, but that the city should find other resources from which to pay for any necessary work. The position of the city, and of the many other supporters of the measure, is that there are no other resources available to make up the difference between the estimated \$42 million in total repair costs and the \$18 million that the city has identified in funding sources.

Some have suggested that the road repairs that have been in process over the last few weeks were timed badly by a city that holds strong hope that voters will approve the parcel tax by the required 2/3 majority. Falk says, "I'm not interested in politicizing our streets. This work needs to be done now whether there's a ballot measure or not." Road maintenance work takes place in Lafayette and many other communities, such as Orinda, annually at this time of year. "Had we waited until July or August (after the election), the cost to the city (to have this work done) would have been much higher. And the idea of not doing any maintenance this year was unthinkable." Doing routine maintenance now, concludes Falk, "is efficient, it's good public policy, and it's good government."

Webcam of Lafayette Library Construction

By Cathy Tyson

Want to take a peak at how construction of the Lafayette Library is progressing? There is a webcam positioned for that very purpose. According to Ann Merideth, Lafayette Community Development Director, "The installation of the camera was requested by the State Office of Library Construction, so that construction could be monitored remotely from Sacramento. The webcam will be in operation until the Library

opens." Bessie Condos, Bond Administration, Library Facilities Consultant is the lucky civil servant who will be "watching to monitor progress." She also notes that it's a good way to keep the community updated and generally people are excited to watch. Feel free to spy, www.csipm.com/webcams_lafayette.html. At the moment, you'll see a big hole in the ground with a retaining wall.

A Calm Evening at The Crosses

By Sophie Bracinni

At a peaceful Memorial Day event Monday evening, an estimated 250 people gathered at "The Crosses" in Lafayette.

There was live music, and many participants joined in singing songs, some dating back to the Vietnam era, such as "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?" Several speakers addressed the crowd, including the hillside's owner, Louise Clark, and Chris Danton, one of the organizers of the Crosses installation.

A heartfelt speech was given by Gold Star mother Nadia

McCaffrey, who lost her son Patrick in the conflict on June 22, 2004. She talked about her grief, her fight to try to make sense of her loss and her latest project, a non-profit organization called Veterans Village. Veterans Village provides support services to veterans when they come home (for more information go to <http://veteransvillage.org>). Moments of silence allowed



Chris Danton addresses the gathering

those at the gathering time to reflect and remember the ultimate sacrifice men and women in the military have made for our country.



Jerry Overaa Photos provided

All in the Family

Overaa Construction Celebrates Centennial

By Cathy Tyson

It all began back in 1907 when Carl Overaa started doing small remodeling projects for friends. He had only been in the country for five years, having left the family dairy farm on a fjord in Overaa, Norway. Since then Overaa Construction has grown and expanded into a \$180 million dollar volume company with a reputation of quality work, run by third and fourth generation family members.

The generation explanation is fairly straightforward. Founder Carl Overaa had two sons; Elmer who was tragically killed in a car accident and Clarence. Clarence had one son, Gerald, (Jerry). Jerry has four children, Carl, Kara, Julia and Erin. All but Julia work at the company in different capacities, as well as sons in law Colby Powell and Bryan Dissman. According to Jerry, there may be work for the 13 grandkids, when they're old enough, "but they'll have to earn it."

"We're aware, that it's pretty rare, having the same ownership," says Jerry. Carl adds, "...by being a very local, family-based business with a long track

record, we are viewed as a safe bet, a stable firm, sincere and honest." They aren't kidding when they talk about being local, Jerry was in one of the first graduating classes at Miramonte, and all of the fourth generation "kids" went to Acalanes.

"I don't think I'm tough, but demanding," reflects Jerry on his style as a boss. Daughter Kara, mother of four and part-time Marketing Manager partially agrees. "Yes, he's tough. He has high expectations, but is very fair." According to son Carl, there's no family rivalry at the firm because, "everyone has a different expertise, responsibility." Although father usually knows best, there have been differences of opinion especially with regard to new technology. "Trust me, guys, there's a better way of doing this," says Carl about generational differences.

Jerry adds, "This generation are very hard workers, it makes it easy for them to blend in and be accepted." When reflecting on traits the entire family shares, "Clarence was almost modest to a fault, conservative, very self-effacing. Even the 13 grandchildren - they are all pretty

slender, pretty blond, and reasonably quiet with a modest humility."

"I'm very fortunate to work with my family, and have the opportunity to work with my best friends," says Kara. The downside can be the family dynamic, "you go in with a lot of history. My parents always encouraged us to work there (Overaa), but never forced us. Do what you love, was their advice."

Recently Overaa Construction had the winning bid for the new Lafayette Library. "This is probably the largest project Lafayette will undertake. Very complicated building, technologically complicated, tough site and it has almost museum quality construction. One of the toughest buildings we've ever built," notes Jerry.

Overaa is also currently working on the Mercantile Building and relatively recently completed the Orinda Library. Over 30 years ago they completed the Lafayette BART station, and because of the quality of their work, they went on to do 15 additional BART projects.

...continued on page 5.

Possession of Dangerous Drugs, 5/19/07 Driver, a 37-year-old male, was pulled over after committing several vehicle code violations. A check showed the suspect was on probation. A search was conducted and methamphetamine was found in a ziplock baggie.

Vandalism, 5/18/07 Unknown suspect scratched swastika onto vehicle engine hood. Victim is Jewish, but doesn't have any suspected enemies. A check of the neighborhood showed no other vehicles damaged. Neighbors didn't see or hear anything.

D.U.I., 5/18/07 Traffic stop along Mt. Diablo Boulevard of a white female age 24, at 1:21 in the morning. Officer checked suspect's driving status and found no California Driver's License in her name. Blood alcohol level above the legal limit.

Who's Watching You?

A Town Hall Meeting

Presented by the Lafayette Crime Prevention Commission along with the Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission and the Lafayette Police Department

Date: Tuesday, June 19th, 2007
Time: 7:00PM—8:30PM
Location: Lafayette Community Center
500 St. Mary's Road
Manzanita Room

This is your opportunity to discuss the issues you care about. Join your neighbors in an informative and insightful exchange of ideas. Learn how to start a neighborhood watch program, neighborhood emergency preparedness and CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) training.

Bring Your.....

- Questions and Concerns
- Ideas and Suggestions

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