

# Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

# Lafayette

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Monday, July 19	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, July 12	
Design Review	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Tuesday, July 10	
Park, Trails, Rec.	7pm
Community Center 500 St Mary's Road Wednesday, July 11	
Circulation	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Monday, July 16	
Emergency Prep.	9:15am
City Offices 3675 Mt, Diablo Blvd. Suite 265 Wednesday, July 11	
Senior Services	4pm
Community Center, Alder Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, June 28	
check online:	
Town of Lafayette: <a href="http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us">http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us</a> for:	
• all meeting notes	
• calendar updates	
Chamber of Commerce: <a href="http://www.lafayettechamber.org">http://www.lafayettechamber.org</a> for:	
• local businesses	
• upcoming events	



**Dialing for Bra Size, 6/14/07** The manager of the Cold Stone Creamery on Mt. Diablo Blvd., called police to report that a strange man has been calling the shop sporadically for the last six years, speaking with female employees, asking for name, age, and bra size with sexual innuendo. The mystery caller tells the women he'll be waiting for them outside the shop when they finish work.

**Non-chainsaw Massacre, 6/14/07** An older white male Fredricka Ave. homeowner recently called police to report that his 20 foot tree was cut down to 8 feet while he was away on vacation. A witness saw an elderly female neighbor clipping branches a week before while the homeowner was away. The alleged lumberjack, age 74 with some dementia, admitted she cut off some branches, but denied chopping the tree down to eight feet.

**Have Drugs Will Travel, 6/5/07** An officer stopped a white, male, age 27 from San Ramon on Dewing in Lafayette. A records check showed him to be on parole. He had a glass pipe with white residue on his person. A strip search at jail found possession of a baggie of white crystal methamphetamine.

## Only You Can Prevent Sign Scofflaws

By Cathy Tyson

Tired of looking at the proliferation of banners and signs along Mt. Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette? It's up to residents to complain about it, if they'd like to have them removed.

At the City Council Special Meeting on June 11, new language was adopted with regard to non-commercial property, but the existing commercial sign ordinances were not changed. Always an interesting read, the Lafayette Municipal Code has page after page of rules that define signage, placement, permitting etc. Niroop Sri-

vatsa, Planning and Building Manager, said, "It's the City's policy to enforce these laws on a complaint basis." Signs in business windows are exempt, but banners, flags, pennants, sandwich boards and signs attached to trees are regulated by the Municipal code.

The City's Municipal Code is very clear. Section 6-2501(2) eliminate visual clutter and create a more attractive and healthy economic business climate. Section 6-2520 (a) it is unlawful to install, erect, move, alter, replace, paint, suspend or attach a sign (except for maintenance

purposes) without a sign permit, unless the sign is exempt from permit requirements. What makes a sign exempt? There are 24 listings in the code, from bumper stickers on cars to mailboxes to temporary realty signs and more.

"Overall we have been assured that the City will work with the Chamber (of Commerce) and local businesses on the sign ordinances, says Chamber Executive Director Jay Lifson. "Some are too restrictive and some are too loose."

## History Comes Alive at the Lafayette Cemetery

By Cathy Tyson



Back in 1854, when Franklin Pierce was President, the same year the U.S. Mint opened it's San Francisco branch to pay gold rush minors \$16 per ounce for gold, young Henrietta Hodges was the first person buried at the Lafayette Cemetery, before it was even officially opened. She died of tuberculosis at 13. Her parents asked permission of the landowner to bury her on the hillside. The Cemetery, which

team of oxen from Wisconsin. Even Clarence William Brown, one of Lafayette's first citizens, and member of the Volunteer Fire Department. He drove the town's first fire engine, "Old Betsey" and owned C.W. Brown Hardware in the 1920's. Margaret Bickerstaff Rosenberg, the first schoolteacher in town, is also laid to rest here.

The Cemetery is unique in that it is a publicly owned

sister, brother or second, if they have a direct relative that resides in the 1937 school tax district, as noted above. A non-resident fee is added to the usual charges for people who meet the qualifications. Still compared to other privately owned cemeteries it's a bargain.

Patricia Howard, Superintendent/General Manager of the Alamo-Lafayette Cemetery District says, "I love it here,



Headstone - John Standish

was privately owned from late 1854, was officially transferred to the City in 1937. It's a little under five acres of trimmed grass and shady oak and pine trees and has a large collection of historical markers for the many original Lafayette settlers laid to rest there.

Some historical notables buried there include, a relative of the Donner party, along with Nathaniel Jones the first sheriff of Contra Costa County. Civil War veteran H.A. Sweet and George W. Hammett, Sr., who came to Lafayette in 1853 by a



Cemetery in bloom

asset for the city. Some residents may not have noticed a tax of approximately .000075% per \$1,000 of property value that goes toward supporting the facility. Oddly enough the tax is based on the 1937 school district boundaries, which at that time encompassed Alamo, what is now Blackhawk, Danville, parts of Walnut Creek and Lafayette.

The benefit of this tax is a substantially discounted burial at the Cemetery if the deceased lived in the tax district. At the moment a person can be laid to rest for \$1495 plus a few additional mandatory fees; \$575 to open and close the site, \$300 for permanent upkeep of the grounds, and \$550 for a liner. For Orinda and Moraga residents, they can only be buried at the Lafayette Cemetery under two circumstances. First if they have a direct relative buried there, mother, father,

it's very peaceful. It's the living you have to worry about." The Cemetery is located at 3285 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, next to the Lafayette Park Hotel and is open from sun-up to sun down every day of the year.

## High-Tech Sewing Studio with Bling!

Sewnow! Makes Sewing Accessible to Everyone

By Lee Borrowman



Susan Goldie checks a beginning student's work

In a large room that's flooded with natural light and that somehow seems calm and quiet even when it's full of excited students, Susan Goldie leans over a young girl's shoulder and says softly, "You're doing a great job, and I love your choice of fabrics!" The girl smiles, and continues to carefully guide her creation beneath the slowly-moving needle of a sewing machine while her mom looks on proudly. "I can't sew a stitch myself," says the mom, "so I'm absolutely delighted that my daughter has this chance to learn!"

The place is Sewnow!, which opened its doors in Lafayette last December. Sewnow! offers classes in fashion design and sewing for kids (8+), teens and adults, specialty workshops on topics such as embroidery and alterations, "open studio" access, custom birthday parties and an immensely popular summer camp.

"We (Goldie and husband Peter) came up with the concept for Sewnow! when we realized that young girls and teens were very interested in creating their own fashions, and there is not really anything available that allows them to learn the traditional art of sewing in a modern, hip way," explains owner Goldie, who is also one of three supremely patient instructors at the studio.

Sewnow! gives budding fashion designers the chance to create their own clothes that express their unique style and personality. "Every project begins at the design table, where students use our templates to plan their design, choose their fabric and findings, and sketch their idea. We then teach them all the skills they need to cut it out and sew it together," Goldie continues. "It is

so rewarding and exciting when young designers complete their first tote bag and are amazed to see how professional it looks."

The classes are popular with kids and adults alike, quickly becoming a favorite after-school activity this past spring. "90% of the students from our first session of Fashion Sewing 101 returned to do our 201 class, and we have been excited to add an extra camp session this summer in response to high demand," notes Goldie. "Adults using our open studio time have commented that our machines are incredible—they even thread themselves!, and it is so nice not to have to use the dining room table to cut out a big project."

And the bling? Many of the kids' projects are finished at a table dedicated to decoration. If it sparkles, shines or glitters, it can be attached to a creation. Can you have too much bling? "Yes," said Goldie during a recent birthday party, "We usually have to set a time limit, or else they'll just keep adding more!"

### Who Are They?

Susan and Peter Goldie live in Lafayette. Susan is a graduate of LaSalle Fashion College in Montreal with nineteen years of experience in fashion design. She has designed costumes for major theatrical productions and also ran a couture design business offering custom wedding gowns and evening wear. Peter is a successful business executive with twenty-one years of marketing and management experience.

### Where Are They?

Sew Now! is located at 960 Moraga Rd, Lafayette. For more information go to <http://www.sewnow.com>, or email [info@sewnow.com](mailto:info@sewnow.com).



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