

# Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

# Lafayette

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Monday, Aug 13	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, Aug 16	
Design Review	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Tuesday, Aug 21	
Park, Trails, Rec.	7pm
Community Center 500 St Mary's Road Wednesday, Aug 8 Wednesday, Sept 12	
Circulation	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Monday, Aug 20	
Emergency Prep.	9:15am
City Offices 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite 265 Wednesday, Sept 12	
Senior Services	3:30pm
Community Center, Alder Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, Aug 23	

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



**Open house theft, 7/22/07**  
An area realty representative held an open house on Woodview Drive. A total of four people viewed the home, three of which signed the sign-in sheet. When the owner returned, some property was missing. Unfortunately, no fingerprints, leads or suspects at this time.

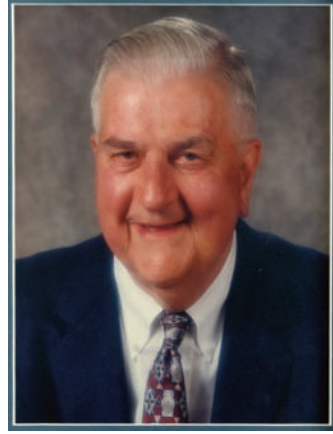
**Pot for sale, 7/20/07**  
Two white males ages 20 and 22 were arrested at Olympic Boulevard and Pleasant Hill Road with \$750. cash and 58 grams of marijuana.

**Bank Robbery, 7/19/07**  
Bank of the West on Mt. Diablo Boulevard was robbed at 4:50 p.m. A white male approached the teller window and gave the teller a note demanding money. He allegedly had a handgun. The robber took approximately \$500. and walked out. The FBI is investigating.

Read online at:  
<http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/html/read.html>  
(a pdf reader is required to view the pages.)

## Celebrating A Life Well-Lived

... continued from page 1



At Stanford, the government paid for his tuition and books and even gave him \$50 a month in exchange for his ROTC commitment. After graduation he served as a captain in the U.S. Army Air Corp.

Dr. Holmes raised his family in Lafayette, then a very small, semi-rural community. Unhappy with the way the county was running then unincorporated Lafayette; he was elected to first City Council in 1968. His brother Dick Holmes joked that Gordon lost a drawing among the broth-

ers, so he was the one to run for Mayor. He won, becoming the second mayor of Lafayette. Keep in mind he was a practicing surgeon at Alta Bates Hospital with five young children at home at the time.

His interests were many and clearly wide-ranging. In the late 1970's he volunteered to help at United Nations High Commission for Refugee Relief in Thailand, at Ban Nam Yao and Maejorim camps. For more than a decade, Dr. Holmes was a Professor of Human Anatomy at UC Berkeley. Later in life he developed two commercial real estate ventures and one condominium project in Lafayette.

At the service his son spoke of his generosity. He had recently funded a clinic that will serve the desperately poor of twenty rural villages in the mountains near Machu Pichu, Peru. He anonymously paid for a wood floor of the church gymnasium. These were just a few of his many acts

of charity.

Dr. Holmes' widow, Ernestine Workman Holmes, tearfully recalled, "he was the love of my life," at the service.

Two charming granddaughters remembered Grandpa as a kind-hearted soul who took time for them individually, selecting special birthday presents and attending countless sports and school events. He invited the grandkids to come to his Happy Valley home pick apples and make applesauce. He even went so far as to take all of his girl grandkids on a special trip.

Son James Gordon Holmes, Jr., recalled at the service that his Dad could be considered a successful man. "You come into this world naked and go out naked, the measure of a life is how you treat people, your relationships." By that measure, and in looking around the capacity crowd at church, Dr. Holmes was truly a successful man.

## No to Assessment = No Twinkle Lights?

By Cathy Tyson

Recently Lafayette business owners voted on an assessment to increase the fees payable to the City for upkeep of medians, tree trimming, sidewalk repair, colorful downtown banners and twinkle lights at Christmas-time. Sadly the assessment, officially the, "Core area landscape and lighting assessment district" only garnered a 30% yes vote. This assessment was last increased in 1984; costs for the City have significantly increased since then. In the intervening years the fees for property owners have remained the same with the City of Lafayette picking up the increasingly large difference.

Right now the budget for Core Area Landscape and Lighting is \$500,000; business owners pay \$158,000.

The City proposed a 50/50

split of the costs, including up to a 3% annual increase for inflation, if necessary. While the assessment covers specific costs, what residents and businesses gain is overall ambiance, which helps keep Lafayette a vibrant upscale place; which in turn, helps bring in shoppers and restaurant patrons.

Going forward the City of Lafayette will start discussions with the City Council at its scheduled meeting in September. The plan is to start with a budget of zero and start adding from there. Its Economics 101 - allocating resources in an environment of scarcity. Residents recently voted 60% in favor of re-paving roads. The question becomes, what is more important to residents, roads or twinkle lights?

## Rock the Plaza



Stage Frite

All shows start at 6:00pm at Lafayette Plaza Park and are presented free of charge. Here is this year's line-up:

August 10th: Stone Soup August 24th: Stage Frite  
August 17th: Total Eclipse

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## Use Permit Request for Private K-8 Education

By Andy Scheck



Sanctuary and Temple Isaiah Classroom Building from Reservoir Parking Lot

The Planning Commission heard an initial proposal last week from the Contra Costa Jewish Day School, a K-8 parochial school, which is requesting a land use permit and development permit to expand its existing facility at 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

The site is owned by the Temple Isaiah, has an access driveway from Risa Rd. and has been the home of the Contra Costa Jewish Day School for several years.

Phase 1 of the proposed project calls for an 18,838 square foot classroom. Phases 2 and 3, which are contingent upon the availability of sufficient funding, would include the construction of an 8,530 square foot multi-use building (Gymnasium) for recreation and school events and another classroom building.

The decision to site the project at the proposed location is the result of extensive input from, and discussions between, the Day

School and Temple Isaiah leadership. The existing Sanctuary and Temple Isaiah classroom building (see photo, taken from the Reservoir parking lot) would be accompanied by three more buildings on the southwest site of the property. At least 26 trees would be removed to develop the Phase 1 building with additional parking.

Following the initial presentation by Peter Stackmole, Loving & Campos Architects Inc., and a questionnaire and discussion session, the Commission is now awaiting a feasibility study. A photo simulation and story posts at the site will help to identify the size and location of the new buildings.

For the coming school year the facility will host 90 students at the K-8 day school, about 18 children per class. With the projected new classrooms, the day school will hold 140-150 students.

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