

Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Lafayette

Calendar	
City Council	7pm Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Monday, Sept 24
Planning Comm.	7pm Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, Sept 20
Design Review	7pm Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Tuesday, Sept 25
Park, Trails, Rec.	7pm Community Center 500 St Mary's Road Wednesday, Oct 10
Circulation	7pm Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Monday, Oct 1
Emergency Prep.	9:15am City Offices 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite 265 Wednesday, Oct 10
Senior Services	3:30pm Community Center, Alder Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, Sept 27

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

To Be or Not To Be City Wrestles With Condominium Project

By Cathy Tyson



View of the site for the proposed "Lafayette Park Terrace" from Pleasant Hill Rd

Concerns ruled the day at last week's City Council meeting regarding the proposed 28 unit condominium project, Lafayette Park Terrace, located on Mt. Diablo Court, near Blodgett's Abbey Carpet. Lafayette Properties, the applicant and owner was looking for final approval of this much-contested project. Greg Wolff, Senior Planner with the City, got the public hearing started with a review of the many, many hoops the project has jumped through thus far, over a dozen hearings spread over a year's time, 154 public comment letters, and more.

The project has changed considerably already due to citizen and city concerns. Originally it was 40 units, the current plan is 28 units on two levels with parking underneath. The overall size has shrunk, from 52,000 square feet to 36,000 square feet. Accord-

ing to architect Joseph Bologna, it is as small as possible, the building is compact and low on the site, and the average height was adjusted to 35 feet. Landscaping calls for planting 82 new trees and keeping as much of the mature vegetation as possible around the periphery of the site.

Public comment at the meeting ran two to one against the project. Concerns included unhappiness with changing the General Plan to accommodate the necessary re-zoning and grading 28,000 cubic yards of earth. Many neighbors living in adjacent single-family homes and multi-unit buildings didn't want a large building in their backyard, blocking their views. Randall Castro said, among other things, the project was too large and gave a petition with 100 signatures to the Council. Those in favor cited ad-

ditional relatively affordable housing the city sorely needs, a smaller footprint than twelve single-family homes, and a senior-friendly project.

Because the Planning Commission was deadlocked three to three at their last meeting, the matter was sent to the City Council to decide. The Planning Commission found that they couldn't fully support it, but couldn't deny it either. Size, bulk and mass were their main concerns. They were in agreement in their support to change the zoning from Medium Density Single-Family Residential (up to six units per acre) to Low Density Multi-Family Residential (up to 17 units per acre). For this two-acre parcel, that means a developer could have built 12 single-family homes, but if approved would be able to build a maximum of 34 condominium units. This came up later in the evening when neighbors complained about the size and mass of the project, but were asked if they preferred having 12 separate homes instead.

In the end, after hearing from Wolff, Bologna, numerous concerned citizens, and a land use lawyer, the City Council still had reservations. Vice Mayor Mike Anderson suggested sending the matter back to the Design Review Commission to see if concerns of height, bulk and mass had been remedied in the current version of the plan. Council Member Brandt Andersson was concerned about increases in density and height; in addition he was also hesitant to change the General Plan. Council Member Carl Anduri preferred a much smaller project, around twelve units. Mayor Carol Federighi was, "still not entirely comfortable with the project... I'm not ready tonight to endorse it or cut it off. My recommendation is to send it back to the Planning Commission." Council Member Don Tatzin was not in attendance.

The City Council voted to send the project back to the Planning Commission and directed the developer to revise its plans to reduce the size of the project.

In related news, The Woodbury, an 80-unit luxury condominium project, on the other end of town near the Veterans Building, was unanimously approved, according to Niroop Srivatsa, Planning and Building Manager.

The Rink comes to Lafayette



Connor Edmunds (kneeling), back row left to right: Kyle Gagnon, Jaime Kenward, Dylan Edmunds and Michelle Hernandez
Photo provided

The Lafayette Recreation Department will hold a grand opening celebration from 10:30-2:30 on September 29th for the new outdoor roller hockey rink and sports facility. There will be music, games, food, prizes and free skating.

Fifteen years ago, former Program Coordinator Brian McCooey built a roller hockey rink out of hay bail wrapped in plastic on the community center parking lot. This month Jonathan Katayanagi, the current Program Coordinator, looks forward to opening the doors of the unique new outdoor rink to a variety of sports. He explains, "The surface of The Rink is what really sets the facility apart from anywhere else in the bay area. The new outdoor Sportcourt tiles make skating at this rink feel just the same as skating at other bay area indoor rinks."

With The Rink, several new recreational opportunities will open up. Kids can learn the basics of lacrosse in the little LAX league and the whole family can join in the fun on Friday Skate Nights. For both

youth and adults there will be the new Lafayette Remix Basketball league; along with Dodge Ball and the ever popular Roller Hockey League.

Event Schedule:

- 10:30 Ribbon cutting ceremony
- 10:45 Bay Area Team Mascots (Warriors Thunder, UC Berkeley - Oski, Campolindo High Cougar, San Francisco Dragons Lacrosse - Scorch, Lafayette Roller Hockey - Viking)
- 11:00 Free Throw Competition
- 11:30 Future class Demonstrations (RC Cars, Roller Figure Skating)
- 11:45 All Skate and Games
- 12:15 Roller Hockey Demonstrations and Competition
- 12:45 Soccer and Dodgeball Games
- 1:15 Broom Ball Game
- 1:45 All Skate and Games



Home Burglary, 9/07/07 An unknown male suspect entered through an unlocked door to a Carol Lane home. The homeowner was sleeping in the living room, when the suspect entered and accidentally woke him up. Suspect said, "oh, I'm sorry," and fled the scene. The only thing missing from the home was a pair of sunglasses taken from an unlocked car in the garage.

Home Burglary, 9/06/07 A Buchan Drive home was broken into via a door kicked in. Officers searched residence and didn't find a suspect. Rear bedroom door was also kicked in. Officer contacted homeowner, who was away on vacation. Public Works Dept. arrived to board up the broken door. No fingerprints were found.

Home Burglary, 9/05/07 The rear wood-framed door to an attached garage of a Read Road home was kicked in. An unknown suspect stole an undetermined amount of jewelry from master bedroom. No leads or suspects at this time. Although there are similarities to the Buchan Drive burglary, police would not speculate about a suspect.

Broken Car Window, 9/2/07 A car was parked in the parking lot on St. Mary's Road just south of Lucille. The vehicle owner walked across the street to play Petanque. When she came back, she noticed one of the windows was smashed in. Estimated damage of about \$350.00

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Birthday Bash

By Sophie Braccini



From right to left: Mayor Federighi with Pierre-Francois Mourier, General Consul of France in San Francisco and his wife Rachel Lautherier-Mourier
Photo Sophie Braccini

The Lafayette Park Hotel had never witnessed such an historic event: General George Washington and the Marquis de La Fayette, both celebrating the Marquis' 250th birthday in the courtyard. The attending audience, about 300 French and American residents of the San Francisco Bay Area, didn't seem the least bit alarmed by the arrival of the General and Marquis and all cheered in

honor of the French-American reunion.

The two young performers portraying General Washington and Marquis de La Fayette were part of the event jointly planned by the City of Lafayette and the San Francisco French Consulate and hosted by the Lafayette Park Hotel to honor the birthday of the French hero in the city that bears his name. ... Continued on page 10

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