

Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Lafayette

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Tuesday, Oct 9	
Monday, Oct 22	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, Oct 4	
Thursday, Oct 18	
Design Review	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Tuesday, Oct 9	
Tuesday, Oct 23	
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 15	
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, Oct 25	
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	



Agency Assist, 9/27/07 Lafayette police assisted U.S. Marshall in apprehending a suspect on an outstanding warrant on Stanley Boulevard, near Acalanes High School. Undercover Lafayette police fooled this reporter, they looked like bad guys.

Would you like some fries with that?, 9/23/07 Unknown suspect entered Flipper's restaurant on Moraga Road via side hallway. Suspects removed the entire cash register with approximately \$500. inside as well as a Dell laptop computer. Unfortunately there were no suspects or witnesses.

Bike Theft, 9/15/07 Homeowner's son left his bike in front of their Brookdale Court home. No one heard or saw anything, a white Ironhorse Maverick 24 speed mountain bike was taken.

Bike Theft, 9/13/07 Two expensive bicycles were stolen from a Betty Lane residence. One was a black Trek 5.1 Madone road bike valued at \$2621., the second was a Fisher Sugar 2 mountain bike, valued at \$1823.

Measure J – Parcel Tax Redux

By Cathy Tyson



From left, Elizabeth Domagalski, Teresa Gerringer and Mary Newman, Yes on J Co-Chairs

Measure J is on the upcoming Lafayette November 6th ballot to renew the current parcel tax, which is set to expire in June of 2008. According to the District, "Revenue does not keep pace with the cost of maintaining our current programs. This is due to inadequate state funding, declining enrollment and increased cost of providing programs." The \$313 proposed tax includes a provision for a three percent annual cost of living adjustment along with an optional exemption for seniors 65 and over, who own and occupy a residence within the school district.

If passed, the money raised from the tax would go toward maintaining small class sizes, retaining quality teachers, improving science and writing instruction, purchasing textbooks and equipment for computer and science labs, and finally maintaining updated technology in the classroom.

Voters first passed a parcel tax in 1992; it was renewed and increased in 1999 to \$132. As it stands now, Lafayette has one of the lowest parcel taxes in the state. It's above Walnut Creek School District, which taxes \$82 per parcel, but significantly below Piedmont Unified School District at \$1,559 per parcel. Measure J, if passed would put Lafayette in the ballpark with the Moraga parcel tax of \$325 and Orinda at \$385.

"I believe everybody benefits from a strong public school system, therefore I think it's in the best interest of the entire Lafayette community to partner with our local school district by approving Measure J, which will ensure stable, locally controlled funding for schools,"

says Mary Newman, Co-Chair of Yes for Excellent Schools. For more information, go to www.yesforexcellentschools.net.

It might surprise some Lafayette residents to learn that the state allocation of per pupil spending in the Lafayette School District is the 16th lowest of the 18 districts in Contra Costa County.

Today only 14.5% of local property taxes paid by Lafayette homeowners goes to the school district. Prior to the passage of Proposition 13, 51% of property tax dollars in Contra Costa County went to school funding. This coupled with declining enrollment help explain the financial situation of the Lafayette School District.

Since 1978 when Proposition 13 passed, school districts across the state have felt its ramifications. First and foremost, it requires a 2/3 majority to pass any local parcel taxes. Getting 66% of voters to agree on anything is quite a challenge. Equally daunting from the school district's point of view are the limits on property taxes. This held property tax rates to 1% of the assessed value of a home and a 2% cap on annual assessment increases.

"100% of the money raised from Measure J will serve our students," says Dr. Frank Tom, the Superintendent of Schools.

Those in favor of No on J argue that Measure J is an "unwarranted new tax increase." They represent, according to their website, a grass-roots, out of pocket effort to promote fiscal common sense and responsible school-district budgeting. For more information, go to www.NOonJ.net.

Calling All Deadheads

By Cathy Tyson

On October 19, the Town Hall Theatre will host a special evening to remember Brent Mydland, former Lafayette resident and keyboardist for the Grateful Dead. Workingman's Ed, featuring Stu Allen and Pat Nevins will be performing the music of the Grateful Dead. Doors will open at 7:00, patrons are invited to enjoy a refreshing



adult beverage at the full bar while checking out the silent auction of Dead memorabilia. The evening will include a ceremony to unveil the acrylic portrait by local artist Jeanette Baird of Brent Mydland that will hang permanently in the lobby of the Town Hall Theatre. Money raised will go toward the historic Town Hall Theatre.

The lobby and theater will be transformed care of Judy Hayman of Peek Experience and Jim Olmes. Tickets are on sale now for \$45 at the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, 100 Lafayette Circle, or you can charge by phone (925) 284-7404.

Tickets will not be sold at the Town Hall Theatre. Management would like to gently remind attendees that no smoking of any kind is allowed at the theater.

Lafayette Residents Help...

... continued from page 1



Bill and Joanne Robbins attend the Lafayette Community Workshop
Photo Cathy Tyson

Other tables had similar, yet slightly different concerns. One group suggested 1) define and develop the center of town, 2) redefine and develop smaller areas for peace and pleasure with fountains, trees and benches and 3) make Lafayette more pedestrian friendly with a free shuttle.

Another table wanted to 1) define mixed retail and housing – at a maximum of three stories tall, 2) have more gathering spaces – specifically La Fiesta Square and 3) beautify creeks and walkways.

Finally another table decided to 1) work on the aesthetics and give downtown more of a Danville like feel, 2) traffic concerns – have easy and convenient places to park, and 3) pedestrian access with new walking trails to follow creeks.

There will be more community workshops in the future; residents are encouraged to attend.

Senior Needs Survey: Ok to Find Funding

By Cathy Tyson

At the September 24th Lafayette City Council meeting, the Mayor and City Council Member's authorized the Mayor to appoint a task force to pursue funding to commission a senior needs assessment. Ruth McCahan, Senior Services Commissioner, argued for a survey to look at the needs, interests and behaviors of seniors in the community. With the oldest Baby Boomers turning 60 last year and a significant proportion of Lafayette's population aging in place, there are specific needs of this distinct group that could be addressed by the City.

Ms. McCahan was looking for funding for a consultant to do a report on the demographics of seniors and to define the gap between what area seniors have and what they need. The City Council thought it was a good idea, especially in light of the current strategic survey.

City Council members advised Ms. McCahan to keep an open mind about finding funding sources or community resources to help defray the cost.

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15TH ANNUAL LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR RUN -2007-

OCTOBER 28TH, 2007
8:30 AM - DOWNTOWN LAFAYETTE

Parking available at BART

5K (8:30 AM) • 10K (8:45 AM) • 2 MILE RUN/WALK (9:00 AM)

To register - go to
www.lafayettechamber.org or www.active.com

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