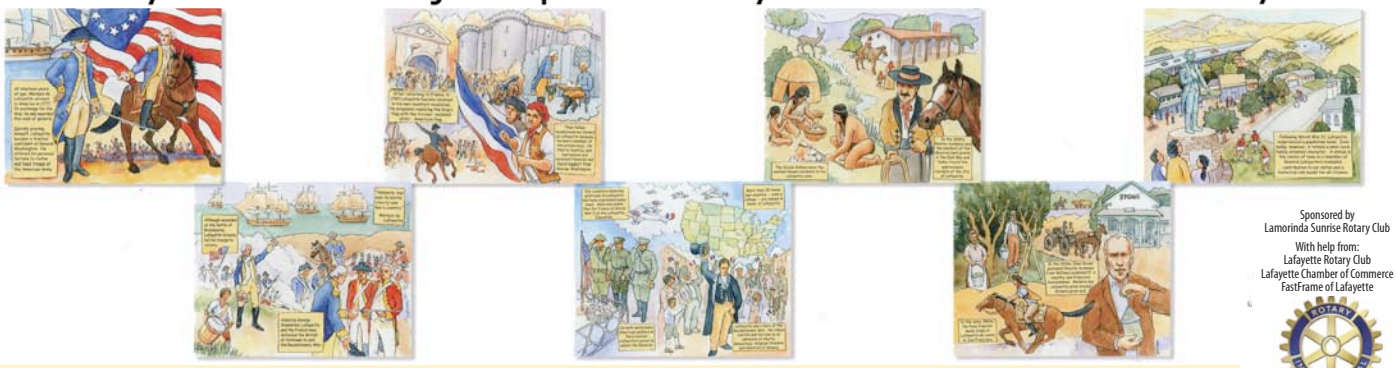
Lafayette Mural Project Sponsored by Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club



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This is a community project to educate and inspire the people of Lafayette. We have a great heritage to be proud of – this mural will be a reminder of our history.

Lafayette Hits Prime Time News in France

By Sophie Braccini

Mayor Carol Federighi hadn't planned on becoming a TV news celebrity in France, but she got her shot at stardom when Alain de Chalvron, a reporter for the French TV Network, France2, came to Lafayette with his film crew on October 15th. The reason for the France2 visit was the expected arrival of French President Nicolas Sarkozy to the United States. In order for the French people to get a better feel of the United States, the network decided to report on American ceremonies surrounding the celebration of the Marquis de La Fayette's 250th birthday.

De Chalvron met with Federighi and asked her about the history of the town.

She explained that in 1857 the postmaster of the area chose the name Lafayette and described the birthday celebration that took place at the Lafayette Park Hotel on September 6th.

On the 16th, de Chalvron filmed a friendly game of Pétanque between the French Consulate, Lafayette Parks and Recreation and the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary at the new Pétanque field on St Mary's road.

For the Americans, Park and Rec Director Jennifer Russell teamed with Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary President Paul Fillinger and Rotary Communication Director Dave Watson. On the French side, Pierre Mattot, the Press Attaché of the French Consulate in San Francisco teamed with Linda Fillinger and de Chalvron's producer Marjolaine Grappe. After a few sets and great deal of fun, a prickling rain sent everybody looking for a dryer place to continue the celebration of French-American friendship.

The participants headed over to the Fillingers' residence for a glass of wine and to view a series of watercolors, painted by John Finger, depicting the life of the Marquis and the development of Lafayette. At the Fillingers' the atmosphere was jovial and the French crew was very interested in the beautiful and educational series of paintings. Fillinger explained that the Lamorinda Sunshine Rotary had initiated and financed this project as part of the Marquis' birthday celebration. The hope is to transfer the watercolors to a large and permanent structure, in the form of a mural. As of today, the final place for a mural has not been decided and Fillinger would love to see it on the walls of the future Lafayette library or adorning a school. "The Marquis de Lafayette is a wonderful role model," advocates Fillinger, "as a young man he risked his life and spent all his fortune to defend the ideas of freedom and liberty he believed in." As the evening wore on, de Chalvon charmed the audience with the tales of all the countries he's visited and the personalities he encounters everyday in Washington DC where he serves as France2's primary correspondent.

John Fillinger (right) is interviewed by Alain de Chalvron (left) for the French News Photo Sophie Braccini

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