

# Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

# Lafayette

Calendar	
<b>City Council</b>	7pm Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Tuesday, Nov 13
<b>Planning Comm.</b>	7pm Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, Nov 1 Thursday, Nov 15
<b>Design Review</b>	7pm Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Tuesday, Nov 6
<b>Park, Trails, Rec.</b>	7pm Community Center 500 St Mary's Road Wednesday, Nov 14
<b>Circulation</b>	7pm Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Monday, Nov 5
<b>Emergency Prep.</b>	9:15am City Offices 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite 265 Wednesday, Nov 14
<b>Youth Services</b>	6pm Community Center, Elderberry Room 500 St Mary's Road Monday, Nov 5
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	



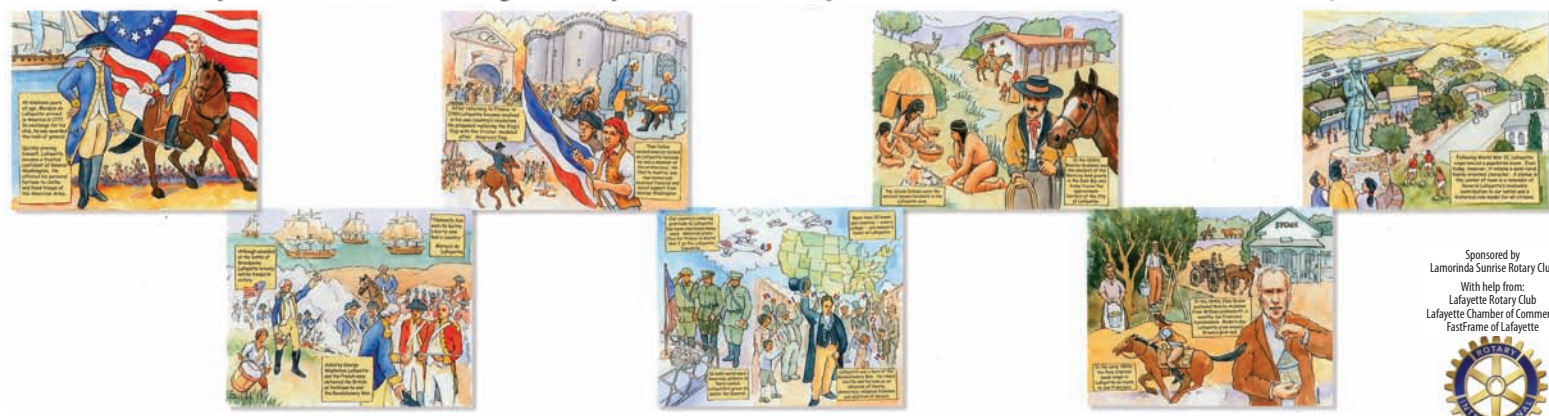
**Should Have Replaced The Headlight, 10/20/07** An officer made a traffic stop along Mt. Diablo Boulevard for a headlight problem and smelled pot in the car. Hidden pot was found under the driver's seat. Driver was cited and signed a promise to appear.

**Stop Thief!, 10/16/07** When a Reliez Valley homeowner came home, she found an unfamiliar truck in the driveway, with several bags in the back. Imagine her surprise when she went to get a portable phone and noticed the front door open. Homeowner took phone out front and called the cops. One of the alleged robbers ran out the front door while she was making the call. During his dash for the car, he knocked her to the ground. The second bad guy ran to the truck from behind the house. Victim tried to stop the truck as it sped away by hitting it with the phone.

**Check is not in the mail, 10/14/07** Well-known person reported to the police that several large checks from a well-known merchant totaling over \$27,000. were missing from his Hope Lane mailbox. Suspect is a female from Concord.

**Car Burglary, 10/12/07** Unknown suspect entered unlocked vehicle on Lafayette Circle and stole HP laptop and set of golf clubs.

## Lafayette Mural Project Sponsored by Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club



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. ... continued on page 14

## And One Survey Leads to Another...

By Lee Borrowman

Love Lafayette: Yup, most do! When the Downtown Strategy Advisory Committee unveiled the results of its Downtown Survey in mid-October, it revealed that the majority of residents and businesses currently in Lafayette plan to stay in Lafayette; and by majority, we do mean enough to pass a (hypothetical) parcel tax.

High on the list of things survey respondents love about Lafayette are the restaurants, retail and service provider choices. The wish list includes nicer architecture for new buildings, more downtown open space (parks and

plazas) and more cultural/entertainment venues to go with even more great restaurants. Above all, and perhaps not surprisingly, Lafayette clamors for less traffic and more parking spaces.

To that end the City has decided to conduct another survey, this one sent to local employers and employees, focusing on parking and transportation. According to Transportation Planner Leah Greenblat, the City has heard from its business community that employee parking crowds out available spaces for patrons. Merchants have approached the City with a

suggestion that one way to ease any perceived parking shortage is to address parking for employees, especially in the downtown area.

Lafayette employers and employees will be surveyed to determine how parking can be improved. The survey will also ask about the awareness and use of ridesharing incentives. Greenblat says that discouraging solo driving will help to improve parking availability and traffic congestion. The survey will close on November 16, 2007.

To view a comprehensive summary of the Downtown Survey results, or to obtain a copy of the parking survey, go to <http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us/>.

## Twinkle Lights Saved!

By Cathy Tyson



Last year's Diablo Foods' tree stands in for lack of twinkle light photo Photo Andy Schreck

Thanks to Jay Lifson, the quick thinking Executive Director of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, the trees along Mt. Diablo Boulevard will sparkle with brand new, energy efficient twinkle lights in time for the holiday season.

The fate of the lights was dim earlier this year. Property owners resoundingly rejected an increase in the Landscape and Lighting Tax assessment this summer. Since the increase didn't pass, the City Council had to look at options for reducing expenditures, twinkle lights were cut and a number of other items were reduced. With hat in hand,

Lifson politely asked the City Council to reconsider their decision. Because the Chamber of Commerce was willing to put up \$13,000, half of the total cost of \$26,000, and two additional business donations of \$2,000 had been received to offset Lafayette's portion of the cost, the City Council was willing to renegotiate. Any additional business donations, which the Chamber is actively soliciting, will go directly to the City to further reduce the cost of the lights.

It was in a nick of time too, as Public Works needed to know the very next day, to order and get them installed before Thanksgiving.

ing. The lights were last replaced in 1999. The new completely replaced and upgraded LED lights use just one-tenth of the energy of traditional lights. Next year, it's estimated that the lights will cost approximately \$11,000. to maintain. It might be well below that the following year.

"Let's be a leader on this," said Lifson, regarding showing the community a way to light the downtown and save a tremendous amount of energy. The benefits of the twinkle lights, "aren't quantifiable, in terms of shoppers or sales tax revenue. We can't let the downtown go dark. Its just a feel good thing."

"I 100% support businesses stepping up," said City Council Member Mike Anderson. He commended Lifson for a good effort given the short amount of time. The City Council was in unanimous agreement. Look for Mt. Diablo Boulevard to shine once again this holiday season.



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