

Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Lafayette

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Monday, Jan 14	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, Jan 3	
Design Review	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Tuesday, Jan 8	
Park, Trails, Rec.	7pm
Community Center 500 St Mary's Road Wednesday, Jan 9	
Circulation	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Monday, Jan 7	
Emergency Prep.	9:15am
City Offices 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite 265 Wednesday, Jan 9	
Senior Services	3:30pm
Community Center, Alder Room 500 St Mary's Road	

check online:
Town of Lafayette:
<http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us>
• all meeting notes
• calendar updates
Chamber of Commerce:
<http://www.lafayettechamber.org>
• local businesses
• upcoming events



Off the Beaten Path, 11/30/07
At just after 8:00 p.m., near the corner of First Street and Mt. Diablo, a teenage driver drove his vehicle down an embankment and stopped in the middle of the street. Driver was arrested and booked.

Identity Theft, 11/28/07 A 57-year old male suspect attempted to open a Discovery credit card using a Dewing Avenue resident's name, date of birth and social security number. The almost-victim did not give permission.

Car Break In, 11/28/07 Someone forced entry into the car of a Carol Lane resident, damaging the steering column and ignition. The car was locked and parked in her carport. The passenger rear door was bowed out as if someone tried to pry it open. Because the car was not drivable, it was towed to a repair shop, where the estimated "fix" will cost \$1,000. At least it wasn't stolen.

Stealthy Bike Thief, 11/27/07 A locked bike was stolen from the side yard of a Bickerstaff Road home. The suspect removed a padlock securing the bike to the gas meter. Sadly, there are no suspects or witnesses. The specialized Hard Rock mountain bike cost approximately \$625.

Read online at:
www.lamorindaweekly.com
(a pdf reader is required to view the pages.)

New Mayor for Lafayette

By Cathy Tyson



From left, Former Mayor Carol Federighi and current Mayor Mike Anderson Photo Cathy Tyson

At the late November City Council meeting Lafayette's former Mayor Carol Federighi, turned over her gavel to current Mayor Mike Anderson. Unlike City Council Members, which are elected by the public, the mayorship is rotated annually and elected by City Council Members. As anticipated, the former Vice Mayor, Mike Anderson is the new Mayor of Lafayette, and Don Tatzin is the new Vice Mayor. Both were elected unanimously.

"We're blessed in this City with fine staff, and a dedicated City Council. It's been an honor and privilege to be Mayor," said Federighi.

Reflecting on the past year, Federighi recalled that she started her term with the controversial crosses to deal with and ended it with the twinkle lights. Along the way she almost learned how to open a champagne bottle with a saber. Apparently it's harder than it looks. At the birthday celebration for the Marquis de Lafayette, she was having some difficulty opening the ceremonial cham-

pagne bottle. The French Consul General attempted this difficult maneuver, and ended up getting sliced by flying glass and enjoyed the cultural highlights of the emergency room for stitches.

Clearly Lafayette has moved forward under her leadership. The crosses were indeed challenging, she recalled, but the City came out of it with a revised residential sign ordinance. Other highlights include, the Downtown Strategic Plan, the new library, the Mercantile Building, Whole Foods, the Woodbury, some senior housing in the pipeline along with the Park Terrace condominiums moving through the approval process.

One thoughtful resident summed it up; "We thank you for taking time away from your family to take care of us."

New Mayor, Mike Anderson, inspired by the success of the Measure J campaign, used a take-off of the three r's to outline his goals for the coming year: roads, resources, redevelopment and respect.

A New Master Plan for Lafayette Parks

By Jean Follmer

Lafayette (the City) is in the initial stages of implementing a New Master Plan (the Plan) for its parks and the City wants your input. Parks can include both neighborhood parks with little or no parking and community parks with parking lots. Additionally, parks can be classified as either active or passive and many parks include both spaces. For example, the neighborhood Brook Street Park is active because it includes play equipment and picnic facilities. The neighborhood Mildred Lane Park is

passive because it consists of a bench and native landscaping. Community parks such as the Lafayette Community Park and Lafayette Community Center are larger (with both active and passive spaces) and offer recreational facilities such as baseball and soccer fields, a multi-sport rink, play areas, a Petanque court and recreation classrooms. The City currently has 88.8 acres of park land at 6 locations and the Lafayette Community Park accounts for 68 of those acres.

Lafayette citizens have in-

Lights! Camera! Municipal Finance?

By Cathy Tyson

In an effort to educate the public about the esoteric nature of municipal finance, Lafayette has embraced a two-pronged approach to help get the word out. First, the fall issue of Vistas had a very thorough article about how projects are funded in Lafayette. Despite the timeliness and depth of the story, it's possible that not every resident reads it. Second, is their new video available for viewing on the City's home page

www.lovelafayette.org
or www.YouTube.com.

"We're looking for a way to keep the material alive and, since a video link might be viewed by some or most of the people who stop by our website, it's worth doing," said City Manager Steve Falk.

Beyond the cool factor, and even though Lafayette seems like a prosperous city, only 6 cents of every dollar paid for property taxes goes to the City. This, coupled with the \$24 million unfunded road repair backlog puts, "financial pressure on every other City operation and has led to budget skirmishes over even the smallest programs. Until there is a comprehensive funding solution for Lafayette's roads and police, these issues will not go away," added Falk.

An internet survey was conducted after the loss of last Spring's Road Tax Measure. The bottom line was that residents aren't fully informed about the ways California public agencies are financed. Noting this, the City Council directed staff to do something about it. Hence the Vista's article and now, the video.

While it's not unusual for larger cities to have full service video production facilities, Lafayette is not a large city. Falk tried to make the 6-minute video educational but fun. "It's a little corny, it's a little camp, but we did that deliberately in an effort to keep the viewer's attention."

The video is entertaining, but it serves a bigger purpose. According to Falk, "Without new sources of funds, Lafayette's residents will continue to receive the lowest per-capita police coverage in Contra Costa County and, without new sources of revenue, many neighborhood roads will continue to deteriorate until they turn to gravel. Some 4,000 Lafayette residents live on failed roads. During some shifts, there are only two police officers on duty to cover the entire town. These services are, by most resident's judgment, totally unacceptable. Indeed, in each of the last four failed measures, six out of every ten voters demanded to tax themselves to improve services in

Lafayette. But unfortunately, California's laws requiring a supermajority for new taxes prevented them from doing so."

"We wanted to get the point across in an amusing, interesting way," said Tracy Robinson, Administrative Services Director. See Ms. Robinson, Steve Falk and a cast of other city employees at a computer near you.

Extra copies of Vistas are available in the City Offices, or to find it on-line, go to the Lafayette home page, www.lovelafayette.org, and click on Vistas Newsletters in the blue column. "Where Do Your Taxes Go?" is in the fall edition.

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