

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Wednesday, February 6, 2008 ■ Volume 01; Issue 26 ■ www.lamorindaweekly.com

Larry Blodgett, Business Person of the Year By Cathy Tyson



Karen and Larry Blodgett at the gala dinner Photo Andy Scheck

“You’re the man, congratulations!” said longtime pal Greg Woehrle before the official festivities began. That seemed to be the sentiment for the evening as hard-working, all around good guy, third generation owner of Blodgett’s Floor Covering, longtime Chamber of Commerce Board Member and Past President Larry Blodgett was honored as the Marquis Business Person of the Year.

If the number of cars lined up for valet parking was any indication, most of Lafayette’s Chamber members were in attendance for the gala dinner at the Lafayette Park Hotel.

Mayor Mike Anderson set the tone for the evening. “The City now faces a major crisis,” he said very seriously. “There’s a great potential for a lot of really bad puns this evening.” He went on to say, “...pulling the rug out from under him. We will ultimately have to give him the floor.”

Anderson went on to give a brief State of the City address, concluding with an invitation for everyone to attend the Downtown Strategic Plan Workshop on February 12 at 7:00 at the Methodist Church. “It’s absolutely critical to engage in the process,” insisted Anderson.

At this meeting, consultants from Wallace, Roberts and Todd will be presenting drafts of the options they’ve come up with. These options are the culmination of all the information gathered from stakeholders, survey and workshop results.

Current President of the Chamber of Commerce Larry Duson officially started the “Roast Larry” portion of the evening. His theme, highlighted on the nearby screen, was ‘What do we

really know about Larry?’ What followed was a hilarious slide show that had the crowd in stitches. Larry’s smiling face was ‘photo-shopped’ into an array of situations in which this humble businessman might be bemused to find himself.

“It was a wonderful event, we had a great time,” said Blodgett. “I consider myself a shy person. About an hour before the event, I started getting the jitters.” In addition to the lovely framed proclamation, and the Roast, “The neatest thing was Greg Woehrle flipping the switch on the Park Theater to illuminate the marquee,” said Blodgett. Just as the Park is a much beloved symbol for Lafayette, Larry Blodgett symbolizes someone who supports the Chamber’s mission to promote and maintain a healthy business climate and to preserve and enhance the quality of life in Lafayette.

